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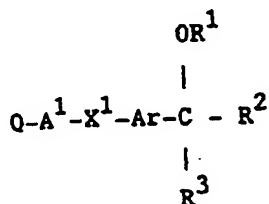
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(54) Bicyclic pyran derivatives and their use as inhibitors of 5-lipoxygenase.

(57) The invention concerns a bicyclic heterocyclic derivative of the formula I



I

wherein Q is an optionally substituted 9-membered bicyclic heterocyclic moiety containing 1 or 2 N's and optionally a further N, O or S heteroatom;  
A<sup>1</sup> is a direct link to X<sup>1</sup> or (1-3C)alkylene;  
X<sup>1</sup> is oxy, thio, sulphinyl, sulphonyl or imino;  
Ar is optionally substituted phenylene or pyridylene;  
R<sup>1</sup> is (1-4C)alkyl, (3-4C)alkenyl or (3-4C)alkynyl; and  
R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> together form a group of the formula -A<sup>2</sup>-X<sup>2</sup>-A<sup>3</sup>- which, together with the carbon atom to which A<sup>2</sup> and A<sup>3</sup> are attached, defines a ring having 5 to 7 ring atoms, wherein each of A<sup>2</sup> and A<sup>3</sup> is (1-3C)alkylene and X<sup>2</sup> is oxy, thio, sulphinyl or sulphonyl;  
or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof.  
The compounds of the invention are inhibitors of the enzyme 5-lipoxygenase.

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This invention concerns novel bicyclic heterocyclic derivatives and more particularly novel bicyclic heterocyclic derivatives which are inhibitors of the enzyme 5-lipoxygenase (hereinafter referred to as 5-LO). The invention also concerns processes for the manufacture of said bicyclic heterocyclic derivatives and novel pharmaceutical compositions containing them. Also included in the invention is the use of said bicyclic heterocyclic derivatives in the treatment of various inflammatory and/or allergic diseases in which the direct or indirect products of 5-LO catalysed oxidation of arachidonic acid are involved, and the production of new medicaments for such use.

As stated above the bicyclic heterocyclic derivatives described hereinafter are inhibitors of 5-LO, which enzyme is known to be involved in catalysing the oxidation of arachidonic acid to give rise via a cascade process to the physiologically active leukotrienes such as leukotriene B<sub>4</sub> (LTB<sub>4</sub>) and the peptido-lipid leukotrienes such as leukotriene C<sub>4</sub> (LTC<sub>4</sub>) and leukotriene D<sub>4</sub> (LTD<sub>4</sub>) and various metabolites.

The biosynthetic relationship and physiological properties of the leukotrienes are summarised by G.W. Taylor and S.R. Clarke in Trends in Pharmacological Sciences, 1988, 7, 100-103. The leukotrienes and their metabolites have been implicated in the production and development of various inflammatory and allergic diseases such as arthritic diseases, asthma, allergic rhinitis, atopic dermatitis, psoriasis, cardiovascular and cerebrovascular disorders and inflammatory bowel disease. In addition the leukotrienes are mediators of inflammatory diseases by virtue of their ability to modulate lymphocyte and leukocyte function. Other physiologically active metabolites of arachidonic acid, such as the prostaglandins and thromboxanes, arise via the action of the enzyme cyclooxygenase on arachidonic acid.

We have now discovered that certain bicyclic heterocyclic derivatives are effective as inhibitors of the enzyme 5-LO and thus of leukotriene biosyntheses. Thus, such compounds are of value as therapeutic agents in the treatment of, for example, allergic conditions, psoriasis, asthma, cardiovascular and cerebrovascular disorders, and/or inflammatory and arthritic conditions, mediated alone or in part by one or more leukotrienes.

According to the invention there is provided a bicyclic heterocyclic derivative of the formula I (set out hereinafter) wherein Q is a 9-membered bicyclic heterocyclic moiety containing one or two nitrogen heteroatoms and optionally containing a further heteroatom selected from nitrogen, oxygen and sulphur, which heterocyclic moiety may optionally bear one or two oxo or thioxo substituents and up to four further substituents selected from halogeno, hydroxy, cyano, amino, (1-4C)alkyl, (1-4C)alkoxy, fluoro-(1-4C)alkyl, (1-4C)alkylamino, di-[(1-4C)alkyl]amino, amino-(1-4C)alkyl, (1-4C)alkylamino-(1-4C)alkyl, di-[(1-4C)alkyl]amino-(1-4C)alkyl, phenyl and phenyl-(1-4C)alkyl, and wherein said phenyl or phenyl-(1-4C)alkyl substituent may optionally bear a substituent selected from halogeno, (1-4C)alkyl and (1-4C)alkoxy;

wherein A<sup>1</sup> is a direct link to X<sup>1</sup> or is (1-3C)alkylene;

wherein X<sup>1</sup> is oxy, thio, sulphinyl, sulphonyl or imino;

wherein Ar is phenylene which may optionally bear one or two substituents selected from halogeno, hydroxy, amino, nitro, cyano, carbamoyl, ureido, (1-4C)alkyl, (1-4C)alkoxy, (1-4C)alkylamino, di-[(1-4C)alkyl]amino, fluoro-(1-4C)alkyl and (2-4C)alkanoylamino; or

Ar is pyridylene;

wherein R<sup>1</sup> is (1-4C)alkyl, (3-4C)alkenyl or (3-4C)alkynyl; and

wherein R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> together form a group of the formula -A<sup>2</sup>-X<sup>2</sup>-A<sup>3</sup>- which, together with the carbon atom to which A<sup>2</sup> and A<sup>3</sup> are attached, defines a ring having 5 to 7 ring atoms, wherein A<sup>2</sup> and A<sup>3</sup>, which may be the same or different, each is (1-3C)alkylene and X<sup>2</sup> is oxy, thio, sulphinyl or sulphonyl, and which ring may bear one, two or three substituents, which may be the same or different, selected from hydroxy, (1-4C)alkyl and (1-4C)alkoxy; or wherein R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>2</sup> together form a group of the formula -A<sup>2</sup>-X<sup>2</sup>-A<sup>3</sup>- which, together with the oxygen atom to which A<sup>2</sup> is attached and with the carbon atom to which A<sup>3</sup> is attached, defines a ring having 5 to 7 ring atoms, wherein A<sup>2</sup> and A<sup>3</sup>, which may be the same or different, each is (1-3C)alkylene and X<sup>2</sup> is oxy, thio, sulphinyl or sulphonyl, and which ring may bear one, two or three (1-4C)alkyl substituents, and wherein R<sup>3</sup> is (1-4C)alkyl, (2-4C)alkenyl or (2-4C)alkynyl;

or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof.

The chemical formulae referred to herein by Roman numerals are set out for convenience on a separate sheet hereinafter.

In this specification the generic term "alkyl" includes both straight-chain and branched-chain alkyl groups. However references to individual alkyl groups such as "propyl" are specific for the straight-chain version only and references to individual branched-chain alkyl groups such as "isopropyl" are specific for the branched-chain version only. An analogous convention applies to other generic terms.

It is to be understood that, insofar as certain of the compounds of the formula I defined above may exhibit the phenomenon of tautomerism and any formula drawing presented herein may represent only one of the possible tautomeric forms, the invention includes in its definition any tautomeric form of a compound of the formula I which possesses the property of inhibiting 5-LO and is not to be limited merely to any one tautomeric

form utilised within the formulae drawings.

It is further to be understood that, insofar as certain of the compounds of formula I defined above may exist in optically active or racemic forms by virtue of one or more substituents containing an asymmetric carbon atom, the invention includes in its definition any such optically active or racemic form which possesses the property of inhibiting 5-LO. The synthesis of optically active forms may be carried out by standard techniques of organic chemistry well known in the art, for example by synthesis from optically active starting materials or by resolution of a racemic form. Similarly, inhibitory properties against 5-LO may be evaluated using the standard laboratory techniques referred to hereinafter.

Suitable values for the generic terms referred to above include those set out below.

A suitable value for Q when it is a 9-membered bicyclic heterocyclic moiety containing one or two nitrogen heteroatoms and optionally containing a further heteroatom selected from nitrogen, oxygen and sulphur is, for example, a benzo-fused heterocyclic moiety or a hydrogenated derivative thereof such as indolyl, indolyl, isoindolyl, isoindolyl, indolizyl, benzimidazolyl, 2,3-dihydrobenzimidazolyl, 1H-indazolyl, 2,3-dihydro-1H-indazolyl, benzoxazolyl, 2,3-dihydrobenzoxazolyl, benzo[c]isoxazolyl, benzo[d]isoxazolyl, 2,3-dihydrobenzo[d]isoxazolyl, benzothiazolyl, 2,3-dihydrobenzothiazolyl, benzo[c]isothiazolyl, benzo[d]isothiazolyl and 2,3-dihydrobenzo[d]isothiazolyl, or, for example, a pyrrolo-fused heterocyclic moiety or a hydrogenated derivative thereof such as 1H-pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridyl, 2,3-dihydro-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridyl, 1H-pyrrolo[2,3-c]pyridyl, 2,3-dihydro-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-c]pyridyl, 1H-imidazo[4,5-b]pyridyl, 2,3-dihydro-1H-imidazo[4,5-b]pyridyl, 1H-imidazo[4,5-c]pyridyl and 2,3-dihydro-1H-imidazo[4,5-c]pyridyl. The heterocyclic moiety may be attached through any available position including from either of the two rings of the bicyclic heterocyclic moiety and including through an available nitrogen atom. The heterocyclic moiety may bear a suitable substituent such as, for example, a (1-4C)alkyl, di-[(1-4C)alkyl]amino-(1-4C)alkyl, phenyl or phenyl-(1-4C)alkyl substituent on an available nitrogen atom.

Suitable values for substituents which may be present on Q or Ar, or on a phenyl or phenyl-(1-4C)alkyl substituent on Q, include, for example:-

for halogeno:	fluoro, chloro, bromo and iodo;
for (1-4C)alkyl:	methyl, ethyl, propyl, isopropyl, butyl, isobutyl and <u>sec</u> -butyl;
for (1-4C)alkoxy:	methoxy, ethoxy, propoxy, isopropoxy and butoxy;
for fluoro-(1-4C)alkyl:	fluoromethyl, difluoromethyl, trifluoromethyl, 2-fluoroethyl, 2,2,2-trifluoroethyl and pentafluoroethyl;
for (1-4C)alkylamino:	methylamino, ethylamino, propylamino and butylamino; and
for di-[(1-4C)alkyl]amino:	dimethylamino, diethylamino and dipropylamino.

Suitable values for substituents which may be present on Q include, for example:-

for amino-(1-4C)alkyl:	aminomethyl, 1-aminoethyl, 2-aminoethyl, 2-aminopropyl and 3-aminopropyl;
for (1-4C)alkylamino-(1-4C)-alkyl:	methylaminomethyl, 2-methylaminoethyl, 3-methylaminopropyl, ethylaminomethyl and 2-ethylaminoethyl;
for di-[(1-4C)alkyl]amino-(1-4C)alkyl:	dimethylaminomethyl, 2-dimethylaminoethyl, 3-dimethylaminopropyl, diethylaminomethyl and 2-diethylaminoethyl;
for phenyl-(1-4C)alkyl:	benzyl, phenethyl and 3-phenylpropyl.

A suitable value for A<sup>1</sup> when it is (1-3C)alkylene is, for example, methylene, ethylene or trimethylene.

A suitable value for Ar when it is phenylene is, for example, 1,3-phenylene or 1,4-phenylene.

A suitable value for Ar when it is pyridylene is, for example, 3,5- or 2,6-pyridylene.

A suitable value for a (2-4C)alkanoylamino substituent which may be present on Ar is, for example, acetamido, propionamido or butyramido.

A suitable value for R<sup>1</sup> when it is (1-4C)alkyl is, for example, methyl, ethyl, propyl or butyl; when it is (3-4C)alkenyl is, for example, allyl, 2-butenyl or 3-butenyl; and when it is (3-4C)alkynyl is, for example, 2-propynyl or 2-butylnyl.

When R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> together form a group of the formula -A<sup>2</sup>-X<sup>2</sup>-A<sup>3</sup>- which, together with the carbon atom to which A<sup>2</sup> and A<sup>3</sup> are attached, defines a ring having 5 to 7 ring atoms then a suitable value for A<sup>2</sup> or A<sup>3</sup>, which may be the same or different, when each is (1-3C)alkylene is, for example, methylene, ethylene or trimethylene. Suitable values for the substituents which may be present on said 5- to 7-membered ring include for example:-  
for (1-4C)alkyl: methyl, ethyl, propyl, isopropyl, butyl and isobutyl;  
for (1-4C)alkoxy: methoxy, ethoxy, propoxy, isopropoxy and butoxy.

When R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>2</sup> together form a group of the formula -A<sup>2</sup>-X<sup>2</sup>-A<sup>3</sup>- which together with the oxygen atom to which A<sup>2</sup> is attached and with the carbon atom to which A<sup>3</sup> is attached, defines a ring having 5 to 7 ring atoms then a suitable value for A<sup>2</sup> or A<sup>3</sup>, which may be the same or different, when each is (1-3C)alkylene is, for example, methylene, ethylene or trimethylene. Suitable values for the (1-4C)alkyl substituents which may be present on said 5- to 7-membered ring include, for example, methyl, ethyl, propyl, isopropyl and butyl.

A suitable value for R<sup>3</sup> when it is (1-4C)alkyl is, for example, methyl, ethyl, propyl or butyl; when it is (2-4C)alkenyl is, for example, vinyl, allyl, 2-butenyl or 3-butenyl; and when it is (2-4C)alkynyl is, for example, ethynyl, 2-propynyl or 2-butylnyl.

A suitable pharmaceutically-acceptable salt of a compound of the invention is, for example, an acid-addition salt of a compound of the invention which is sufficiently basic, for example, an acid-addition salt with, for example, an inorganic or organic acid, for example hydrochloric, hydrobromic, sulphuric, phosphoric, trifluoroacetic, citric or maleic acid. In addition a suitable pharmaceutically-acceptable salt of a compound of the invention which is sufficiently acidic is an alkali metal salt, for example a sodium or potassium salt, an alkaline earth metal salt, for example a calcium or magnesium salt, an ammonium salt or a salt with an organic base which affords a physiologically-acceptable cation, for example a salt with methylamine, dimethylamine, trimethylamine, piperidine, morpholine or tris-(2-hydroxyethyl)amine.

Particular novel compounds of the invention are, for example, bicyclic heterocyclic derivatives of the formula I wherein:-

(a) Q is a 9-membered benzo-fused heterocyclic moiety containing one nitrogen heteroatom and optionally containing a second heteroatom selected from nitrogen, oxygen and sulphur, which heterocycle may optionally bear one or two oxo or thioxo substituents and up to four substituents having the meanings defined hereinbefore for further substituents on Q; and A<sup>1</sup>, X<sup>1</sup>, Ar, R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> have any of the meanings defined hereinbefore;

(b) Q is indolyl, indolinyl, benzimidazolyl, 2,3-dihydrobenzimidazolyl, 1H-indazolyl, 2,3-dihydro-1H-indazolyl, benzoxazolyl, 2,3-dihydrobenzoxazolyl, benzothiazolyl or 2,3-dihydrobenzothiazolyl, which may optionally bear one or two oxo or thioxo substituents and up to four substituents having the meanings defined hereinbefore for further substituents on Q; and A<sup>1</sup>, X<sup>1</sup>, Ar, R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> have any of the meanings defined hereinbefore;

(c) Q is 2-indolyl, 3-indolyl, 5-indolyl, 6-indolyl, 2-benzimidazolyl, 5-benzimidazolyl, 6-benzimidazolyl, 1H-indazol-5-yl, 1H-indazol-6-yl, 2-benzoxazolyl, 5-benzoxazolyl, 6-benzoxazolyl, 2-benzothiazolyl, 5-benzothiazolyl or 6-benzothiazolyl, which may optionally bear one or two substituents having the meanings defined hereinbefore for further substituents on Q; and A<sup>1</sup>, X<sup>1</sup>, Ar, R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> have any of the meanings defined hereinbefore;

(d) Q is 2-oxoindolinyl, 2,3-dioxoindolinyl, 2-oxo-2,3-dihydrobenzimidazolyl, 3-oxo-2,3-dihydro-1H-indazolyl, 2-oxo-2,3-dihydrobenzoxazolyl or 2-oxo-2,3-dihydrobenzothiazolyl, or the corresponding thioxo derivatives thereof, which may optionally bear up to four substituents having the meanings defined hereinbefore for further substituents on Q; and A<sup>1</sup>, X<sup>1</sup>, Ar, R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> have any of the meanings defined hereinbefore;

(e) Q is 2-oxoindolin-3-yl, 2-oxoindolin-5-yl, 2-oxoindolin-6-yl, 2,3-dioxoindolin-5-yl, 2,3-dioxoindolin-6-yl, 2-oxo-2,3-dihydrobenzimidazol-5-yl, 2-oxo-2,3-dihydrobenzimidazol-6-yl, 3-oxo-2,3-dihydro-1H-indazol-5-yl, 3-oxo-2,3-dihydro-1H-indazol-6-yl, 2-oxo-2,3-dihydrobenzoxazol-5-yl, 2-oxo-2,3-dihydrobenzoxazol-6-yl, 2-oxo-2,3-dihydrobenzothiazol-5-yl or 2-oxo-2,3-dihydrobenzothiazol-6-yl, or the corresponding thioxo derivatives thereof, which may optionally bear up to four substituents having the meanings defined hereinbefore for further substituents on Q; and A<sup>1</sup>, X<sup>1</sup>, Ar, R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> have any of the meanings defined hereinbefore;

(f) A<sup>1</sup> is a direct link to X<sup>1</sup>, and X<sup>1</sup> is oxy, thio, sulphinyl or sulphonyl; and Q, Ar, R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> have any of the meanings defined hereinbefore;

(g) A<sup>1</sup> is methylene and X<sup>1</sup> is oxy, thio, sulphinyl or sulphonyl; and Q, Ar, R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> have any of the meanings defined hereinbefore;

(h) Ar is 1,3-phenylene or 1,4-phenylene which may optionally bear one or two substituents selected from fluoro, chloro, hydroxy, amino, nitro, ureido, methyl, methoxy, methylamino, dimethylamino, trifluoromethyl and acetamido; and Q, A<sup>1</sup>, X<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> have any of the meanings defined hereinbefore;

(i) Ar is 3,5-pyridylene; and Q, A<sup>1</sup>, X<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> have any of the meanings defined hereinbefore;

(j) R<sup>1</sup> is methyl, ethyl, allyl or 2-propynyl; and Q, A<sup>1</sup>, X<sup>1</sup>, Ar, R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> have any of the meanings defined hereinbefore;

(k) R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> together form a group of the formula -A<sup>2</sup>-X<sup>2</sup>-A<sup>3</sup>- which, together with the carbon atom to which A<sup>2</sup> and A<sup>3</sup> are attached, defines a ring having 5 to 7 ring atoms, wherein A<sup>2</sup> and A<sup>3</sup>, which may be the same or different, each is methylene, ethylene or trimethylene and X<sup>2</sup> is oxy, and which ring may bear one or two substituents selected from hydroxy, methyl, ethyl, propyl, methoxy and ethoxy; and Q, A<sup>1</sup>, X<sup>1</sup>, Ar and R<sup>1</sup> have any of the meanings defined hereinbefore; or

(l) R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>2</sup> together form a group of the formula -A<sup>2</sup>-X<sup>2</sup>-A<sup>3</sup>- which, together with the oxygen atom to which A<sup>2</sup> is attached and with the carbon atom to which A<sup>3</sup> is attached, defines a ring having 5 to 7 ring atoms, wherein A<sup>2</sup> and A<sup>3</sup>, which may be the same or different, each is methylene or ethylene and X<sup>2</sup> is oxy, and which ring may bear one, two or three substituents selected from methyl, ethyl and propyl, and R<sup>3</sup> is methyl or ethyl; and Q, A<sup>1</sup>, X<sup>1</sup> and Ar have any of the meanings defined hereinbefore;

or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof.

A preferred compound of the invention comprises a bicyclic heterocyclic derivative of the formula I wherein Q is indolyl, indolinyl, benzimidazolyl, 2,3-dihydrobenzimidazolyl, 1H-indazolyl, 2,3-dihydro-1H-indazolyl, benzoxazolyl, 2,3-dihydrobenzoxazolyl, benzothiazolyl or 2,3-dihydrobenzothiazolyl, which may optionally bear one or two oxo or thioxo substituents and up to four substituents selected from fluoro, chloro, bromo, hydroxy, cyano, amino, methyl, ethyl, propyl, methoxy, trifluoromethyl, 2-fluoroethyl, 2,2,2-trifluoroethyl, 2-methylaminoethyl, 2-dimethylaminoethyl, phenyl and benzyl, and wherein said phenyl or benzyl substituent may optionally bear a substituent selected from chloro, methyl and methoxy;

A<sup>1</sup> is a direct link to X<sup>1</sup> or is methylene;

X<sup>1</sup> is oxy, thio, sulphinyl or sulphonyl;

Ar is 1,3-phenylene or 1,4-phenylene which may optionally bear one or two substituents selected from fluoro, chloro, hydroxy, amino, nitro, ureido, methoxy, dimethylamino, trifluoromethyl and acetamido; or Ar is 3,5-pyridylene;

R<sup>1</sup> is methyl, ethyl, allyl or 2-propynyl; and

R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> together form a group of the formula -A<sup>2</sup>-X<sup>2</sup>-A<sup>3</sup>- which, together with the carbon atom to which A<sup>2</sup> and A<sup>3</sup> are attached, defines a ring having 5 or 6 ring atoms, wherein A<sup>2</sup> is ethylene, A<sup>3</sup> is methylene or ethylene, and X<sup>2</sup> is oxy, and which ring may bear one or two substituents selected from methyl, ethyl, propyl, methoxy and ethoxy;

or R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>2</sup> together form a group of the formula -A<sup>2</sup>-X<sup>2</sup>-A<sup>3</sup>- which, together with the oxygen atom to which A<sup>2</sup> is attached and with the carbon atom to which A<sup>3</sup> is attached, defines a ring having 5 or 6 ring atoms, wherein A<sup>2</sup> is methylene, A<sup>3</sup> is methylene or ethylene, and X<sup>2</sup> is oxy, and which ring may bear one, two or three substituents selected from methyl, ethyl and propyl, and R<sup>3</sup> is methyl or ethyl; or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof.

A further preferred compound of the invention comprises a bicyclic heterocyclic derivative of the formula I wherein Q is 2-oxoindolin-5-yl, 2,3-dioxoindolin-5-yl, 2-oxo-2,3-dihydrobenzimidazol-5-yl, 2-oxo-2,3-dihydrobenzoxazol-6-yl or 2-oxo-2,3-dihydrobenzothiazol-6-yl which may optionally bear one, two or three substituents selected from fluoro, chloro, hydroxy, methyl, ethyl, propyl, 2-fluoroethyl, 2-dimethylaminoethyl, phenyl and benzyl;

A<sup>1</sup> is a direct link to X<sup>1</sup>, or is methylene;

X<sup>1</sup> is oxy, thio, sulphinyl or sulphonyl;

Ar is 1,3-phenylene or 1,4-phenylene which may optionally bear one or two substituents selected from fluoro, hydroxy, amino, nitro, ureido, methoxy, dimethylamino, trifluoromethyl and acetamido; or

Ar is 3,5-pyridylene;

R<sup>1</sup> is methyl, ethyl, allyl or 2-propynyl; and

R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> together form a group of the formula -A<sup>2</sup>-X<sup>2</sup>-A<sup>3</sup>- which, together with the carbon atom to which A<sup>2</sup> and A<sup>3</sup> are attached, defines a ring having 5 or 6 ring atoms, wherein A<sup>2</sup> is ethylene, A<sup>3</sup> is methylene or ethylene, and X<sup>2</sup> is oxy, and which ring may bear one or two substituents selected from methyl and ethyl;

or R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>2</sup> together form a group of the formula -A<sup>2</sup>-X<sup>2</sup>-A<sup>3</sup>- which, together with the oxygen atom to which A<sup>2</sup> is attached and with the carbon atom to which A<sup>3</sup> is attached, defines a ring having 5 ring atoms, wherein A<sup>2</sup> is methylene, A<sup>3</sup> is methylene, and X<sup>2</sup> is oxy, and which ring may bear one, two or three substituents selected from methyl and ethyl, and R<sup>3</sup> is methyl or ethyl; or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof.

A further preferred compound of the invention comprises a bicyclic heterocyclic derivative of the formula I wherein Q is 2-oxoindolin-5-yl, 2-oxo-2,3-dihydrobenzimidazol-5-yl, 2-oxo-2,3-dihydrobenzoxazol-6-yl or 2-oxo-2,3-dihydrobenzothiazol-6-yl, or the corresponding N-methyl or N-ethyl derivatives thereof, which may optionally bear one or two methyl substituents;

5 A<sup>1</sup> is a direct link to X<sup>1</sup>, or is methylene;

X<sup>1</sup> is oxy or thio;

Ar is 1,3-phenylene which may optionally bear one or two substituents selected from fluoro, methoxy and trifluoromethyl;

R<sup>1</sup> is methyl, ethyl or allyl; and

10 R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> together form a group of the formula -A<sup>2</sup>-X<sup>2</sup>-A<sup>3</sup>- which, together with the carbon atom to which A<sup>2</sup> and A<sup>3</sup> are attached, defines a ring having 5 or 6 ring atoms, wherein A<sup>2</sup> is ethylene, A<sup>3</sup> is methylene or ethylene and X<sup>2</sup> is oxy, and which ring may bear a substituent selected from methyl, ethyl, propyl and methoxy; or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof.

A further preferred compound of the invention comprises a bicyclic heterocyclic derivative of the formula I wherein Q is 2-oxoindolin-5-yl, 2-oxo-2,3-dihydrobenzimidazol-5-yl, 2-oxo-2,3-dihydrobenzoxazol-6-yl or 2-oxo-2,3-dihydrobenzothiazol-6-yl, or the corresponding N-methyl or N-ethyl derivatives thereof, which may optionally bear one or two substituents selected from fluoro, hydroxy and methyl;

15 A<sup>1</sup> is a direct link to X<sup>1</sup>, or is methylene;

X<sup>1</sup> is oxy or thio;

20 Ar is 1,3-phenylene which may optionally bear one or two substituents selected from fluoro, methoxy and trifluoromethyl;

R<sup>1</sup> is methyl, ethyl or allyl; and

25 R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> together form a group of the formula -A<sup>2</sup>-X<sup>2</sup>-A<sup>3</sup>- which, together with the carbon atom to which A<sup>2</sup> and A<sup>3</sup> are attached, defines a ring having 5 or 6 ring atoms, wherein A<sup>2</sup> is ethylene, A<sup>3</sup> is methylene or ethylene and X<sup>2</sup> is oxy, and which ring may bear a substituent selected from methyl, ethyl, propyl and methoxy; or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof.

An especially preferred compound of the invention comprises a bicyclic heterocyclic derivative of the formula I

30 wherein Q is 1,3,3-trimethyl-2-oxoindolin-5-yl, 1,3-dimethyl-2-oxo-2,3-dihydrobenzimidazol-5-yl or 3-methyl-2-oxo-2,3-dihydrobenzothiazol-6-yl;

A<sup>1</sup> is a direct link to X<sup>1</sup>;

X<sup>1</sup> is thio;

Ar is 1,3-phenylene or 5-fluoro-1,3-phenylene;

R<sup>1</sup> is methyl; and

35 R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> together form a group of the formula -A<sup>2</sup>-X<sup>2</sup>-A<sup>3</sup>- which, together with the carbon atom to which A<sup>2</sup> and A<sup>3</sup> are attached, defines a ring having 6 ring atoms, wherein each of A<sup>2</sup> and A<sup>3</sup> is ethylene and X<sup>2</sup> is oxy, and which ring may bear a methyl or ethyl substituent alpha to X<sup>2</sup>; or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof.

A further especially preferred compound of the invention comprises a bicyclic heterocyclic derivative of the formula I

40 wherein Q is 1,3,3-trimethyl-2-oxoindolin-5-yl, 1,3-dimethyl-2-oxo-2,3-dihydrobenzimidazol-5-yl, 3-methyl-2-oxo-2,3-dihydrobenzothiazol-6-yl or 3,3-difluoro-1-methyl-2-oxoindolin-5-yl;

A<sup>1</sup> is a direct link to X<sup>1</sup>;

X<sup>1</sup> is thio;

45 Ar is 1,3-phenylene or 5-fluoro-1,3-phenylene;

R<sup>1</sup> is methyl; and

50 R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> together form a group of the formula -A<sup>2</sup>-X<sup>2</sup>-A<sup>3</sup>- which, together with the carbon atom to which A<sup>2</sup> and A<sup>3</sup> are attached, defines a ring having 6 ring atoms, wherein each of A<sup>2</sup> and A<sup>3</sup> is ethylene and X<sup>2</sup> is oxy, and which ring may bear a methyl or ethyl substituent alpha to X<sup>2</sup>; or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof.

Specific especially preferred compounds of the invention include, for example, the following bicyclic heterocyclic derivatives of the formula I, or pharmaceutically-acceptable salts thereof: 4-methoxy-4-[3-(1,3,3-trimethyl-2-oxoindolin-5-ylthio)phenyl]tetrahydropyran, 4-[3-(1,3-dimethyl-2-oxo-2,3-dihydrobenzimidazol-5-ylthio)-phenyl]-4-methoxytetrahydropyran and 4-methoxy-4-[3-(3-methyl-2-oxo-2,3-dihydrobenzothiazol-6-ylthio)phenyl]tetrahydropyran.

55 Further specific especially preferred compounds of the invention include, for example, the following bicyclic heterocyclic derivatives of the formula I, or pharmaceutically-acceptable salts thereof: 4-[5-fluoro-3-(3-methyl-2-oxo-2,3-dihydrobenzothiazol-6-ylmethoxy)-phenyl]-4-methoxytetrahydropyran,

4-[5-fluoro-3-(1,3-dimethyl-2-oxo-2,3-dihydrobenzimidazol-5-ylmethoxy)phenyl]-4-methoxytetrahydropyran  
and

4-[5-fluoro-3-(3,3-difluoro-1-methyl-2-oxoindolin-5-ylmethoxy)phenyl]-4-methoxytetrahydropyran.

A compound of the invention comprising a bicyclic heterocyclic derivative of the formula I, or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof, may be prepared by any process known to be applicable to the preparation of structurally-related compounds. Such procedures are provided as a further feature of the invention and are illustrated by the following representative examples in which, unless otherwise stated, Q, A<sup>1</sup>, X<sup>1</sup>, Ar, R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> have any of the meanings defined hereinbefore.

(a) The coupling, preferably in the presence of a suitable base, of a compound of the formula Q-A<sup>1</sup>-X<sup>1</sup>-H with a compound of the formula II wherein Z is a displaceable group; provided that, when there is an amino, alkylamino or hydroxy group in Q, Ar, R<sup>2</sup> or R<sup>3</sup>, any amino, alkylamino or hydroxy group may be protected by a conventional protecting group or alternatively any such group need not be protected, whereafter any undesired protecting group in Q, Ar, R<sup>2</sup> or R<sup>3</sup> is removed by conventional means.

A suitable displaceable group Z is, for example, a halogeno or sulphonyloxy group, for example a chloro, bromo, iodo, methane-sulphonyloxy or toluene-p-sulphonyloxy group.

A suitable base for the coupling reaction is, for example, an alkali or alkaline earth metal carbonate, (1-4C)alkoxide, hydroxide or hydride, for example sodium carbonate, potassium carbonate, sodium ethoxide, sodium butoxide, sodium hydroxide, potassium hydroxide, sodium hydride or potassium hydride. The coupling reaction is conveniently performed in a suitable inert solvent or diluent, for example N,N-dimethylformamide, N,N-dimethylacetamide, N-methylpyrrolidin-2-one, dimethylsulphoxide, acetone, 1,2-dimethoxyethane or tetrahydrofuran, and at a temperature in the range, for example, 10 to 150°C, conveniently at or near 100°C.

Conveniently the reaction may be performed in the presence of a suitable catalyst, for example a metallic catalyst, for example palladium(O) or copper(I) such as tetrakis(triphenylphosphine)-palladium, cuprous chloride or cuprous bromide.

A suitable protecting group for an amino or alkylamino group is, for example, an acyl group for example a (2-4C)alkanoyl group (especially acetyl), a (1-4C)alkoxycarbonyl group (especially methoxycarbonyl, ethoxycarbonyl or *tert*-butoxycarbonyl), an arylmethoxycarbonyl group (especially benzyloxycarbonyl) or an aroyl group (especially benzoyl). The deprotection conditions for the above protecting groups necessarily vary with the choice of protecting group. Thus, for example, an acyl group such as an alkanoyl or alkoxycarbonyl or an aroyl group may be removed for example, by hydrolysis with a suitable base such as an alkali metal hydroxide, for example lithium or sodium hydroxide. Alternatively an acyl group such as a *tert*-butoxycarbonyl group may be removed, for example, by treatment with a suitable acid such as hydrochloric, sulphuric or phosphoric acid or trifluoroacetic acid and an arylmethoxycarbonyl group such as a benzyloxycarbonyl group may be removed, for example, by hydrogenation over a catalyst such as palladium-on-charcoal.

A suitable protecting group for a hydroxy group is, for example, an acyl group, for example a (2-4C)alkanoyl group (especially acetyl), an aroyl group (especially benzoyl) or an arylmethyl group (especially benzyl). The deprotection conditions for the above protecting groups will necessarily vary with the choice of protecting group. Thus, for example, an acyl group such as an alkanoyl or an aroyl group may be removed, for example, by hydrolysis with a suitable base such as an alkali metal hydroxide, for example lithium or sodium hydroxide. Alternatively an arylmethyl group such as a benzyl group may be removed, for example, by hydrogenation over a catalyst such as palladium-on-charcoal.

The starting materials of the formula Q-A<sup>1</sup>-X<sup>1</sup>-H and of the formula II may be obtained by standard procedures of organic chemistry. Thus, for example, when a starting material of the formula Q-SH is required, it may be obtained by, for example, the reaction of a heterocyclic moiety of the formula Q-H as defined hereinbefore with a halosulphonylating agent such as, for example, chlorosulphonic acid, in a suitable solvent or diluent, for example dichloroethane or pyridine, and at a temperature in the range, for example 40 to 150°C, conveniently at or near 100°C. The intermediate of, for example, the formula Q-SO<sub>2</sub>-Cl so produced may be reduced to a compound of the formula Q-SH by a conventional reducing agent such as, for example, a suitable reducing metallic salt such as a metallic halide, for example a stannous halide, conveniently stannous chloride, in a suitable solvent or diluent such as a (2-4C)alkanoic acid, for example acetic acid, and at a temperature in the range, for example, 40 to 150°C, conveniently in the range 80 to 100°C. Alternatively the reducing agent may be a suitable reducing metal, such as zinc or iron, in the presence of a strong acid, such as hydrochloric, sulphuric or phosphoric acid, and at a temperature in the range, for example 10 to 135°C, conveniently at or near 100°C.

Conveniently intermediates of the formula II wherein Z, Ar, R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> have the meanings defined hereinbefore, may be obtained by way of compounds of the formula Z-Ar-Y, wherein Z and Ar have the meanings defined hereinbefore and Y is, for example, a halogeno, formyl, alkanoyl, nitrile or alkoxycarbonyl



group, as illustrated in accompanying Scheme I (set out hereinafter). Thus, for example, in the accompanying non-limiting Examples it is shown how to convert a compound of the formula  $Z-Ar-Y$  wherein  $Y$  is a halogeno group to a compound of the formula II.

It will also be appreciated that the intermediate of the formula II may conveniently be obtained from the compound of the formula  $Z-Ar-Y$ , as defined hereinbefore, by reversing the order of introduction of the groups  $R^2$  and  $R^3$  which is used in Scheme I.

(b) The coupling, preferably in the presence of a suitable base as defined hereinbefore, of a compound of the formula III with a compound of the formula  $Q-A^1-Z$  wherein  $Z$  is a displaceable group as defined hereinbefore; provided that, when there is an amino, alkylamino or hydroxy group in  $Q$ ,  $Ar$ ,  $R^2$  or  $R^3$ , any amino, alkylamino or hydroxy group may be protected by a conventional protecting group as defined hereinbefore or alternatively any such group need not be protected, whereafter any undesired protecting group in  $Q$ ,  $Ar$ ,  $R^2$  or  $R^3$  is removed by conventional means.

The coupling reaction is conveniently performed in a suitable inert solvent as defined hereinbefore and at a temperature in the range, for example, 10 to 150°C, conveniently at or near 100°C. The reaction may conveniently be performed in the presence of a suitable catalyst as defined hereinbefore.

The starting materials of the formula  $Q-A^1-Z$  and of the formula III may be obtained by standard procedures of organic chemistry. The preparation of such starting materials is described within the accompanying non-limiting Examples which are provided for the purpose of illustration only. Alternatively necessary starting materials are obtainable by analogous procedures to those illustrated in accompanying Scheme II (set out hereinafter) or by modifications thereto which are within the ordinary skill of an organic chemist.

A suitable protecting group  $R^4$ , as employed in Scheme II, is any one of the many such groups known in the art and includes any appropriate protecting group as defined hereinbefore. Examples of such groups are given in Scheme II. The conditions for the introduction and removal of such protecting groups are described in standard textbooks of organic chemistry such as, for example, "Protective Groups in Organic Synthesis" by T W Green (J Wiley and Sons, 1981).

(c) The alkylation, preferably in the presence of a suitable base as defined hereinbefore, of a compound of the formula IV with a compound of the formula  $R^1-Z$ , wherein  $R^1$  and  $Z$  have the meanings defined hereinbefore; provided that, when there is an amino, imino, alkylamino or hydroxy group in  $Q$ ,  $X^1$ ,  $Ar$ ,  $R^2$  or  $R^3$  any amino, imino, alkylamino or hydroxy group may be protected by a conventional protecting group or alternatively any such group need not be protected, whereafter any undesired protecting group in  $Q$ ,  $X^1$ ,  $Ar$ ,  $R^2$  or  $R^3$  is removed by conventional means.

A suitable protecting group for an imino group is, for example, any of the protecting groups defined hereinbefore for an amino or alkylamino group.

The tertiary alcohol starting material of the formula IV may be obtained by standard procedures of organic chemistry. Conveniently, and as illustrated in accompanying Scheme III (set out hereinafter), intermediates of the formulae  $Q-A^1-X^1-Ar-Y$ , wherein  $Q$ ,  $A^1$ ,  $X^1$  and  $Ar$  have the meanings defined hereinbefore and  $Y$  is, for example, a halogeno, formyl, alkanoyl, nitrile or alkoxy carbonyl group may be utilised in the preparation of the tertiary alcohol starting material of the formula IV.

(d) For the production of those compounds of the formula I wherein  $R^1$  and  $R^2$  together form a group of the formula  $-A^2-X^2-A^3-$  which, together with the oxygen atom to which  $A^2$  is attached, defines a ring having 5 to 7 ring atoms and wherein  $A^2$ ,  $X^2$  and  $A^3$  have the meanings defined hereinbefore, and wherein  $R^3$  has the meaning defined hereinbefore; the cyclisation of a compound of the formula V upon reaction with an appropriate aldehyde or ketone, or with a hemiacetal or acetal thereof, or with a compound of the formula  $Z-A^2-Z$ , wherein  $Z$  has the meaning defined hereinbefore; provided that, when there is an amino, imino, alkylamino or hydroxy group in  $Q$ ,  $X^1$  or  $Ar$ , any amino, imino, alkylamino or hydroxy group is protected by a conventional protecting group, whereafter any undesired protecting group in  $Q$ ,  $X^1$  or  $Ar$  is removed by conventional means.

The cyclisation of a compound of the formula V with an appropriate aldehyde or ketone, or with a hemiacetal or acetal thereof, is conveniently carried out in the presence of a suitable acid. A suitable acid for the cyclisation reaction is, for example, an inorganic acid such as hydrochloric, sulphuric or phosphoric acid, or, for example, an organic acid such as *p*-toluenesulphonic acid or trifluoroacetic acid. The cyclisation reaction is conveniently performed in a suitable inert solvent or diluent, for example 1,2-dimethoxyethane or tetrahydrofuran. Preferably the reaction is performed using the appropriate aldehyde or ketone, or a hemiacetal or acetal derivative thereof, as both a reactant and diluent. The cyclisation is effected at a temperature in the range, for example, 20 to 150°C, conveniently at or near the boiling point of the diluent or solvent.

The cyclisation of a compound of the formula V with a compound of the formula  $Z-A^2-Z$  is conveniently carried out in the presence of a suitable base as defined hereinbefore.

The tertiary alcohol starting material of the formula V may be obtained by standard procedures of organic chemistry. Conveniently, and as illustrated in accompanying Scheme IV (set out hereinafter), intermediates of



the formula  $Q-A^1-X^1-Ar-Y$ , wherein  $Q$ ,  $A^1$ ,  $X^1$ ,  $Ar$  and  $Y$  have the meanings defined hereinbefore, may be utilised in the preparation of the tertiary alcohol starting material of the formula V.

A suitable protecting group  $R^4$ , as defined hereinbefore, is employed.

(e) For the production of those compounds of the formula I wherein  $X^1$  is a sulphinyl or sulphonyl group, wherein  $R^2$  and  $R^3$  together form a group of the formula  $-A^2-X^2-A^3-$  and  $X^2$  is a sulphinyl or sulphonyl group or wherein  $R^1$  and  $R^2$  together form a group of the formula  $-A^2-X^2-A^3-$  and  $X^2$  is a sulphinyl or sulphonyl group, the oxidation of a compound of the formula I wherein  $X^1$  is a thio group, wherein  $R^2$  and  $R^3$  together form a group of the formula  $-A^2-X^2-A^3-$  and  $X^2$  is a thio group or wherein  $R^1$  and  $R^2$  together form a group of the formula  $-A^2-X^2-A^3-$  and  $X^2$  is a thio group.

A suitable oxidising agent is, for example, any agent known in the art for the oxidation of thio to sulphinyl and/or sulphonyl, for example, hydrogen peroxide, a peracid (such as 3-chloroperoxybenzoic or peroxyacetic acid), an alkali metal peroxysulphate (such as potassium peroxymonosulphate), chromium trioxide or gaseous oxygen in the presence of platinum. The oxidation is generally carried out under as mild conditions as possible and with the required stoichiometric amount of oxidising agent in order to reduce the risk of over oxidation and damage to other functional groups. In general the reaction is carried out in a suitable solvent or diluent such as methylene chloride, chloroform, acetone, tetrahydrofuran or *tert*-butyl methyl ether and at a temperature, for example, at or near ambient temperature, that is in the range 15 to 35°C. When a compound carrying a sulphinyl group is required a milder oxidising agent may also be used, for example sodium or potassium metaperiodate, conveniently in a polar solvent such as acetic acid or ethanol. It will be appreciated that when a compound of the formula I containing a sulphonyl group is required, it may be obtained by oxidation of the corresponding sulphinyl compound as well as of the corresponding thio compound.

(f) For the production of those compounds of the formula I wherein  $Ar$  bears an alkanoylamino substituent, the acylation of a compound of the formula I wherein  $Ar$  bears an amino substituent.

A suitable acylating agent is, for example, any agent known in the art for the acylation of amino to acylamino, for example an acyl halide, for example a (2-6C)alkanoyl chloride or bromide, in the presence of a suitable base, an alkanoyl acid anhydride, for example a (2-6C)alkanoyl acid anhydride, or an alkanoyl acid mixed anhydride, for example the mixed anhydride formed by the reaction of an alkanoyl acid and a (1-4C)alkoxycarbonyl halide, for example a (1-4C)alkoxycarbonyl chloride, in the presence of a suitable base. In general the reaction is carried out in a suitable solvent or diluent such as methylene chloride, acetone, tetrahydrofuran or *tert*-butyl methyl ether and at a temperature, for example, at or near ambient temperature, that is in the range 15 to 35°C. A suitable base when it is required is, for example, pyridine, 4-dimethylaminopyridine, triethylamine, ethyldiisopropylamine, N-methylmorpholine, an alkali metal carbonate, for example potassium carbonate, or an alkali metal carboxylate, for example sodium acetate.

(g) For the production of those compounds of the formula I wherein  $Q$  bears an alkyl or substituted alkyl substituent on an available nitrogen atom, or wherein  $Ar$  bears an alkoxy substituent, the alkylation of a compound of the formula I wherein  $Q$  bears a hydrogen atom on said available nitrogen atom, or wherein  $Ar$  bears a hydroxy substituent.

A suitable alkylating agent is, for example, any agent known in the art for the alkylation of an available nitrogen atom, or of hydroxy to alkoxy, for example an alkyl or substituted alkyl halide, for example a (1-6C)alkyl chloride, bromide or iodide or a substituted (1-4C)alkyl chloride, bromide or iodide, in the presence of a suitable base. A suitable base for the alkylation reaction is, for example, an alkali or alkaline earth metal carbonate, sodium hydroxide, potassium hydroxide, sodium hydride or potassium hydride. The alkylation reaction is preferably performed in a suitable inert solvent or diluent, for example N,N-dimethylformamide, dimethylsulphoxide, acetone, 1,2-dimethoxyethane or tetrahydrofuran, and at a temperature in the range, for example, 10 to 150°C, conveniently at or near ambient temperature.

When a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt of a novel compound of the formula I is required, it may be obtained, for example, by reaction of said compound with a suitable acid or base using a conventional procedure. When an optically active form of a compound of the formula I is required, it may be obtained by carrying out one of the aforesaid procedures using an optically active starting material, or by resolution of a racemic form of said compound using a conventional procedure.

Many of the intermediates defined herein are novel, for example those of the formulae IV and V and these are provided as a further feature of the invention.

As stated previously, the novel compounds of the formula I are inhibitors of the enzyme 5-LO. The effects of this inhibition may be demonstrated using one or more of the standard procedures set out below:-

a) An *in vitro* spectrophotometric enzyme assay system, which assesses the inhibitory properties of a test compound in a cell free system using 5-LO isolated from guinea pig neutrophils and as described by D. Aharony and R.L. Stein (J. Biol. Chem., 1988, 261(25), 11512-11519). This test provides a measure of the intrinsic inhibitory properties of a test compound against soluble 5-LO in an extracellular environment.

b) An *in vitro* assay system involving incubating a test compound with heparinised human blood, prior to challenge with the calcium ionophore A23187 and then indirectly measuring the inhibitory effects on 5-LO by assaying the amount of LTB<sub>4</sub> using specific radioimmunoassays described by Carey and Forder (F. Carey and R.A. Forder, *Prostaglandins, Leukotrienes Med.*, 1986, **22**, 57; *Prostaglandins*, 1984, **28**, 666; *Brit. J. Pharmacol.*, 1985, **84**, 34P) which involve the use of a protein-LTB<sub>4</sub> conjugate produced using the procedure of Young *et alia* (*Prostaglandins*, 1983, **26**(4), 605-613). The effects of a test compound on the enzyme cyclooxygenase (which is involved in the alternative metabolic pathway for arachidonic acid and gives rise to prostaglandins, thromboxanes and related metabolites) may be measured at the same time using the specific radioimmunoassay for thromboxane B<sub>2</sub> (TxB<sub>2</sub>) described by Carey and Forder (see above). This test provides an indication of the effects of a test compound against 5-LO and also cyclooxygenase in the presence of blood cells and proteins. It permits the selectivity of the inhibitory effect on 5-LO or cyclooxygenase to be assessed.

c) An *ex vivo* assay system, which is a variation of test b) above, involving administration of a test compound (usually orally as the suspension produced when a solution of the test compound in dimethylsulphoxide is added to carboxymethylcellulose), blood collection, heparinisation, challenge with A23187 and radioimmunoassay of LTB<sub>4</sub> and TxB<sub>2</sub>. This test provides an indication of the bioavailability of a test compound as an inhibitor of 5-LO or cyclooxygenase.

d) An *in vitro* assay system involving the measurement of the inhibitory properties of a test compound against the liberation of LTC<sub>4</sub> and PGE<sub>2</sub> induced by zymosan on mouse resident peritoneal macrophages, using the procedure of Humes (J.L. Humes *et alia*, *Biochem. Pharmacol.*, 1983, **32**, 2319-2322) and conventional radioimmunoassay systems to measure LTC<sub>4</sub> and PGE<sub>2</sub>. This test provides an indication of inhibitory effects against 5-LO and cyclooxygenase in a non-proteinaceous system.

e) An *in vivo* system involving the measurement of the effects of a test compound in inhibiting the inflammatory response to arachidonic acid in the rabbit skin model developed by D. Aked *et alia* (*Brit. J. Pharmacol.*, 1986, **89**, 431-438). This test provides an *in vivo* model for 5-LO inhibitors administered topically or orally.

f) An *in vivo* system involving measuring the effects of a test compound administered orally or intravenously on a leukotriene dependent bronchoconstriction induced by an antigen challenge in guinea pigs pre-dosed with an antihistamine (mepyramine), a  $\beta$ -adrenergic blocking agent (propranolol) and a cyclooxygenase inhibitor (indomethacin), using the procedure of W.H. Anderson *et alia* (*British J. Pharmacology*, 1983, **78**(1), 67-674). This test provides a further *in vivo* test for detecting 5-LO inhibitors.

g) An *in vivo* system involving measuring the effects of a test compound administered orally against the liberation of LTB<sub>4</sub> induced by zymosan within an air pouch generated within the subcutaneous tissue of the back of male rats. The rats are anaesthetised and air pouches are formed by the injection of sterile air (20ml). A further injection of air (10ml) is similarly given after 3 days. At 6 days after the initial air injection the test compound is administered (usually orally as the suspension produced when a solution of the test compound in dimethylsulphoxide is added to hydroxypropylmethylcellulose), followed by the intrapouch injection of zymosan (1ml of a 1% suspension in physiological saline). After 3 hours the rats are killed, the air pouches are lavaged with physiological saline, and the specific radioimmunoassay described above is used to assay LTB<sub>4</sub> in the washings. This test provides an indication of inhibitory effects against 5-LO in an inflammatory milieu.

Although the pharmacological properties of the compounds of the formula I vary with structural changes as expected, in general compounds of the formula I possess 5-LO inhibitory effects at the following concentrations or doses in one or more of the above tests a)-f):-

Test a): IC<sub>50</sub> in the range, for example, 0.01-30  $\mu$ M;

Test b): IC<sub>50</sub> (LTB<sub>4</sub>) in the range, for example, 0.01-40  $\mu$ M IC<sub>50</sub> (TxB<sub>2</sub>) in the range, for example, 40-200  $\mu$ M;

Test c): oral ED<sub>50</sub> (LTB<sub>4</sub>) in the range, for example, 1-100 mg/kg;

Test d): IC<sub>50</sub> (LTC<sub>4</sub>) in the range, for example, 0.001-1  $\mu$ M, IC<sub>50</sub> (PGE<sub>2</sub>) in the range, for example, 20-1000  $\mu$ M;

Test e): inhibition of inflammation in the range, for example, 0.3-100  $\mu$ g intradermally;

Test f): ED<sub>50</sub> in the range, for example, 0.5-10 mg/kg i.v.;

Test g): oral ED<sub>50</sub> (LTB<sub>4</sub>) in the range, for example, 0.5-30 mg/kg.

No overt toxicity or other untoward effects are present in tests c), e), f) and/or g) when compounds of the formula I are administered at several multiples of their minimum inhibitory dose or concentration.

Thus, by way of example, the compound 4-[3-(1,3-dimethyl-2-oxo-2,3-dihydrobenzimidazol-5-ylthio)phenyl]-4-methoxytetrahydropyran has an IC<sub>50</sub> of 0.05  $\mu$ M against LTB<sub>4</sub> in test b), and an oral ED<sub>50</sub> of <2 mg/kg versus LTB<sub>4</sub> in test g). In general those compounds of the formula I which are particularly preferred have an IC<sub>50</sub> of <1  $\mu$ M against LTB<sub>4</sub> in test b), and an oral ED<sub>50</sub> of <100 mg/kg against LTB<sub>4</sub> in tests c) and/or g).

These compounds are examples of compounds of the invention which show selective inhibitory properties for 5-LO as opposed to cyclooxygenase, which selective properties are expected to impart improved therapeutic properties, for example, a reduction in or freedom from the gastrointestinal side-effects frequently associated with cyclooxygenase inhibitors such as indomethacin.

According to a further feature of the invention there is provided a pharmaceutical composition which comprises a bicyclic heterocyclic derivative of the formula I, or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof, in association with a pharmaceutically-acceptable diluent or carrier.

The composition may be in a form suitable for oral use, for example a tablet, capsule, aqueous or oily solution, suspension or emulsion; for topical use, for example a cream, ointment, gel or aqueous or oily solution or suspension; for nasal use, for example a snuff, nasal spray or nasal drops; for vaginal or rectal use, for example a suppository; for administration by inhalation, for example as a finely divided powder or a liquid aerosol; for sub-lingual or buccal use, for example a tablet or capsule; or for parenteral use (including intravenous, subcutaneous, intramuscular, intravascular or infusion), for example a sterile aqueous or oily solution or suspension. In general the above compositions may be prepared in a conventional manner using conventional excipients.

The amount of active ingredient (that is a bicyclic heterocyclic derivative of the formula I, or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof) that is combined with one or more excipients to produce a single dosage form will necessarily vary depending upon the host treated and the particular route of administration. For example, a formulation intended for oral administration to humans will generally contain, for example, from 0.5 mg to 2g of active agent compounded with an appropriate and convenient amount of excipients which may vary from about 5 to about 98 percent by weight of the total composition. Dosage unit forms will generally contain about 1 mg to about 500 mg of an active ingredient.

According to a further feature of the invention there is provided a bicyclic heterocyclic derivative of the formula I, or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof, for use in a method of treatment of the human or animal body by therapy.

The invention also includes a method of treating a disease or medical condition mediated alone or in part by one or more leukotrienes which comprises administering to a warm-blooded animal requiring such treatment an effective amount of an active ingredient as defined above. The invention also provides the use of such an active ingredient in the production of a new medicament for use in a leukotriene mediated disease or medical condition.

The size of the dose for therapeutic or prophylactic purposes of a compound of the formula I will naturally vary according to the nature and severity of the conditions, the age and sex of the animal or patient and the route of administration, according to well known principles of medicine. As mentioned above, compounds of the formula I are useful in treating those allergic and inflammatory conditions which are due alone or in part to the effects of the metabolites of arachidonic acid arising by the linear (5-LO catalysed) pathway and in particular the leukotrienes, the production of which is mediated by 5-LO. As previously mentioned, such conditions include, for example, asthmatic conditions, allergic reactions, allergic rhinitis, allergic shock, psoriasis, atopic dermatitis, cardiovascular and cerebrovascular disorders of an inflammatory nature, arthritic and inflammatory joint disease, and inflammatory bowel diseases.

In using a compound of the formula I for therapeutic or prophylactic purposes it will generally be administered so that a daily dose in the range, for example, 0.5mg to 75mg per kg body weight is received, given if required in divided doses. In general lower doses will be administered when a parenteral route is employed. Thus, for example, for intravenous administration, a dose in the range, for example, 0.5mg to 30 mg per kg body weight will generally be used. Similarly, for administration by inhalation, a dose in the range, for example, 0.5 mg to 25 mg per kg body weight will be used.

Although the compounds of the formula I are primarily of value as therapeutic agents for use in warm-blooded animals (including man), they are also useful whenever it is required to inhibit the enzyme 5-LO. Thus, they are useful as pharmacological standards for use in the development of new biological tests and in the search for new pharmacological agents.

By virtue of their effects on leukotriene production, the compounds of the formula I have certain cytoprotective effects, for example they are useful in reducing or suppressing certain of the adverse gastrointestinal effects of the cyclooxygenase inhibitory non-steroidal anti-inflammatory agents (NSAIA), such as indomethacin, acetylsalicylic acid, ibuprofen, sulindac, tolmetin and piroxicam. Furthermore, co-administration of a 5-LO inhibitor of the formula I with a NSAIA can result in a reduction in the quantity of the latter agent needed to produce a therapeutic effect, thereby reducing the likelihood of adverse side-effects. According to a further feature of the invention there is provided a pharmaceutical composition which comprises a bicyclic heterocyclic derivative of the formula I, or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof as defined hereinbefore, in conjunction or admixture with a cyclooxygenase inhibitory non-steroidal anti-inflammatory agent (such as

mentioned above), and a pharmaceutically-acceptable diluent or carrier.

The cytoprotective effects of the compounds of the formula I may be demonstrated, for example in a standard laboratory model which assesses protection against indomethacin-induced or ethanol-induced ulceration in the gastrointestinal tract of rats.

5 The compositions of the invention may in addition contain one or more therapeutic or prophylactic agents known to be of value for the disease under treatment. Thus, for example a known platelet aggregation inhibitor, hypolipidemic agent, anti-hypertensive agent, beta-adrenergic blocker or a vasodilator may usefully also be present in a pharmaceutical composition of the invention for use in treating a heart or vascular disease or condition. Similarly, by way of example, an anti-histamine, steroid (such as beclomethasone dipropionate),  
10 sodium cromoglycate, phosphodiesterase inhibitor or a beta-adrenergic stimulant may usefully also be present in a pharmaceutical composition of the invention for use in treating a pulmonary disease or condition.

The invention will now be illustrated in the following non-limiting Examples in which, unless otherwise stated:-

- 15 (i) evaporations were carried out by rotary evaporation in vacuo and work-up procedures were carried out after removal of residual solids by filtration;
- (ii) operations were carried out at room temperature, that is in the range 18-25° and under an atmosphere of an inert gas such as argon;
- (iii) column chromatography (by the flash procedure) and medium pressure liquid chromatography (MPLC) were performed on Merck Kieselgel silica (Art. 9385) or Merck Lichroprep RP-18 (Art. 9303) reversed-  
20 phase silica obtained from E. Merck, Darmstadt, W. Germany;
- (iv) yields are given for illustration only and are not necessarily the maximum attainable;
- (v) the end-products of the formula I have satisfactory microanalyses and their structures were confirmed by NMR and mass spectral techniques;
- (vi) intermediates were not generally fully characterised and purity was assessed by thin layer  
25 chromatographic, infra-red (IR) or NMR analysis;
- (vii) melting points are uncorrected and were determined using a Mettler SP62 automatic melting point apparatus or an oil-bath apparatus; melting points for the end-products of the formula I were determined after recrystallisation from a conventional organic solvent such as ethanol, methanol, acetone, ether or hexane, alone or in admixture; and
- 30 (viii) the following abbreviations have been used:-

THF tetrahydrofuran;  
DMSO dimethylsulphoxide;  
DMF N,N-dimethylformamide;  
DMA N,N-dimethylacetamide.

### 35 EXAMPLE 1

A mixture of 5-iodo-1,3-dimethyl-2,3-dihydrobenzimidazol-2-one (0.44 g), 4-(3-mercaptophenyl)-4-methoxytetrahydropyran (0.34 g), cuprous chloride (0.05 g), potassium carbonate (0.34 g) and DMF (1 ml) was  
40 stirred vigorously and heated to 140°C for 1.5 hours. The mixture was cooled to ambient temperature and partitioned between water and ethyl acetate. The organic phase was washed with water, dried (MgSO<sub>4</sub>) and evaporated. The residue was purified by column chromatography using ethyl acetate as eluent. There was thus obtained 4-[3-(1,3-dimethyl-2-oxo-2,3-dihydrobenzimidazol-5-ylthio)phenyl]-4-methoxy-tetrahydropyran (0.285 g, 49%), m.p. 112°C.  
45 NMR Spectrum (CDCl<sub>3</sub>,  $\delta$  values) 1.8-2.0 (m, 4H), 2.95 (s, 3H), 3.35 (s, 3H), 3.45 (s, 3H), 3.75-3.90 (m, 4H), 6.9-7.3 (m, 7H).

The 5-iodo-1,3-dimethyl-2,3-dihydrobenzimidazol-2-one used as a starting material was obtained as follows:-

A mixture of 1,1'-carbonyldiimidazole (10.7 g) and THF (100 ml) was added to a mixture of 1,2-phenylenediamine (6.48 g) and THF (150 ml) which had been cooled to approximately 5°C in an ice-water bath. The mixture was stirred at ambient temperature for 16 hours. The precipitate was filtered off giving 2,3-dihydrobenzimidazol-2-one (4.38 g, 55%), m.p. >290°C.

Sodium hydride (55% w/w dispersion in oil, 2.8 g) was added portionwise to a solution of 2,3-dihydrobenzimidazol-2-one (4.3 g) in DMF (100 ml) which had been cooled in an ice-water bath. The mixture was stirred  
55 at ambient temperature for 1.5 hours, during which period a further portion of DMF (50 ml) was added to aid the stirring of the reaction mixture. Methyl iodide (5 ml) was added and the mixture was stirred at ambient temperature for 16 hours. The mixture was evaporated and the residue was partitioned between ethyl acetate and water. The organic phase was washed with water and with brine, dried (MgSO<sub>4</sub>) and evaporated. The

residue was purified by column chromatography using a 2:1 v/v mixture of toluene and ethyl acetate as eluent. There was thus obtained 1,3-dimethyl-2,3-dihydrobenzimidazol-2-one (3.14 g, 60%), m.p. 104-106°C.

A mixture of the product so obtained (0.5 g), iodine monochloride (0.5 g) and glacial acetic acid (5 ml) was heated to 80°C for 1 hour. The mixture was partitioned between a saturated aqueous sodium sulphite solution and methylene chloride. The organic phase was washed with a saturated aqueous sodium bicarbonate solution, dried (MgSO<sub>4</sub>) and evaporated. The residue was recrystallised from ethyl acetate. There was thus obtained 5-iodo-1,3-dimethyl-2,3-dihydrobenzimidazol-2-one (0.36 g, 41%), m.p. 142-144°C.

The 4-(3-mercaptophenyl)-4-methoxytetrahydropyran used as a starting material was obtained as follows:-

A solution of 1,3-dibromobenzene (23.8 g) in THF (120 ml) was cooled to -78°C and n-butyl-lithium (1.6M in hexane, 62.5 ml) was added dropwise. The mixture was stirred at -78°C for 30 minutes and a solution of tetrahydropyran-4-one (10 g) in THF (40 ml) was added. The resultant suspension was stirred at -78°C for 1 hour, allowed to warm to ambient temperature and then stirred for 30 minutes. The mixture was poured into brine (250 ml) and extracted with diethyl ether. The organic phase was dried (MgSO<sub>4</sub>) and evaporated. The residue was triturated under hexane and the resultant solid (16.8 g) was filtered off.

A solution of the product so obtained in DMF (100 ml) was added dropwise to a slurry of sodium hydride (60% w/w dispersion in mineral oil; 5.25 g) in DMF (10 ml) and the mixture was stirred at ambient temperature for 90 minutes. Methyl iodide (36.5 g) was added and the mixture was stirred at ambient temperature for 16 hours. Ethanol (2 ml) and water (500 ml) was added in turn and the mixture was extracted with diethyl ether (3 x 200 ml). The combined extracts were washed with water, dried (MgSO<sub>4</sub>) and evaporated. The residue was purified by column chromatography using increasingly polar mixtures of hexane and ethyl acetate as eluent. There was thus obtained 4-(3-bromophenyl)-4-methoxytetrahydropyran (12 g, 44%) as a gum.

NMR Spectrum (CDCl<sub>3</sub>,  $\delta$  values) 1.88-2.1 (m, 4H), 3.0 (s, 3H), 3.78-3.95 (m, 4H), 7.2-7.35 (m, 2H), 7.42 (m, 1H), 7.55 (m, 1H).

A solution of 4-(3-bromophenyl)-4-methoxytetrahydropyran (1 g) in THF (4 ml) was cooled to -80°C under an atmosphere of argon and n-butyl-lithium (1.6M in hexane, 2.4 ml) was added dropwise. The mixture was stirred at -80°C for 30 minutes, sulphur (0.12 g) was added and the mixture was stirred at -80°C for a further 30 minutes. Water (10 ml) was added and the mixture was allowed to warm to ambient temperature. The mixture was extracted with diethyl ether (10 ml). The aqueous phase was acidified to pH4 by the addition of dilute aqueous hydrochloric acid solution and extracted with diethyl ether (2 x 10 ml). The combined organic extracts were dried (MgSO<sub>4</sub>) and evaporated. There was thus obtained the required starting material as an oil (0.5 g) which crystallised on standing and was used without further purification.

## EXAMPLE 2

The procedure described in Example 1 was repeated except that 6-iodo-3-methyl-2,3-dihydrobenzothiazol-2-one was used in place of 5-iodo-1,3-dimethyl-2,3-dihydrobenzimidazol-2-one. There was thus obtained 4-methoxy-4-[3-(3-methyl-2-oxo-2,3-dihydrobenzothiazol-6-ylthio)phenyl]tetrahydropyran in 69% yield, m.p. 113-114°C.

NMR Spectrum (CDCl<sub>3</sub>,  $\delta$  values) 1.85-2.05 (m, 4H), 3.0 (s, 3H), 3.45 (s, 3H), 3.75-3.9 (m, 4H), 7.0-7.5 (m, 7H).

The 6-iodo-3-methyl-2,3-dihydrobenzothiazol-2-one used as a starting material was obtained as follows:-

The procedures described in the portion of Example 1 which are concerned with the preparation of 5-iodo-1,3-dimethyl-2,3-dihydrobenzimidazol-2-one were repeated except that 2-aminophenylthiol was used in place of 1,2-phenylenediamine. There were thus obtained in turn:-

2,3-dihydrobenzothiazol-2-one in 55% yield, m.p. 133-134°C;  
3-methyl-2,3-dihydrobenzothiazol-2-one in 77% yield, m.p. 74-75°C; and  
6-iodo-3-methyl-2,3-dihydrobenzothiazol-2-one in 37% yield, m.p. 130-131°C.

## EXAMPLE 3

The procedure described in Example 1 was repeated except that 6-iodo-3-methyl-2,3-dihydrobenzoxazol-2-one was used in place of 5-iodo-1,3-dimethyl-2,3-dihydrobenzimidazol-2-one. There was thus obtained 4-methoxy-4-[3-(3-methyl-2-oxo-2,3-dihydrobenzoxazol-6-ylthio)phenyl]tetrahydropyran in 71% yield, m.p. 90-92°C.

NMR Spectrum (CDCl<sub>3</sub>,  $\delta$  values) 1.85-2.05 (m, 4H), 2.95 (s, 3H), 3.4 (s, 3H), 3.75-3.90 (m, 4H), 6.9-7.35 (m, 7H)

The 6-iodo-3-methyl-2,3-dihydrobenzoxazol-2-one used as a starting material was obtained as follows:-  
A mixture of 1,1'-carbonyldiimidazole (14.6 g), 2-aminophenol (6.54 g) and THF (200 ml) was heated to

reflux for 2 hours. The mixture was evaporated and the residue was partitioned between ethyl acetate and water. The organic phase was washed with 2N aqueous hydrochloric acid, water and brine, dried ( $\text{MgSO}_4$ ) and evaporated. The residue was purified by column chromatography using a 2:1 v/v mixture of toluene and ethyl acetate as eluent. There was thus obtained 2,3-dihydrobenzoxazol-2-one (6.96 g, 86%), m.p. 136-138°C.

The procedures described in the portion of Example 1 which are concerned with the preparation of 5-iodo-1,3-dimethyl-2,3-dihydrobenzimidazol-2-one were repeated except that 2,3-dihydrobenzoxazol-2-one was used in place of 2,3-dihydrobenzimidazol-2-one. There were thus obtained 3-methyl-2,3-dihydrobenzoxazol-2-one in 63% yield, m.p. 80-82°C; and 6-iodo-3-methyl-2,3-dihydrobenzoxazol-2-one in 36% yield, m.p. 184-185°C.

#### EXAMPLE 4

A solution of potassium peroxymonosulphate (0.32 g) in water (2 ml) was added to a solution of 4-[3-(1,3-dimethyl-2-oxo-2,3-dihydrobenzimidazol-5-ylthio)phenyl]-4-methoxytetrahydropyran (0.125 g) in ethanol (2 ml) and the resultant mixture was stirred at ambient temperature for 66 hours. The mixture was partitioned between methylene chloride and water. The organic phase was washed with water, dried ( $\text{MgSO}_4$ ) and evaporated. The residue was purified by column chromatography using ethyl acetate as eluent. There was thus obtained 4-[3-(1,3-dimethyl-2-oxo-2,3-dihydrobenzimidazol-5-ylsulphonyl)phenyl]-4-methoxytetrahydropyran (0.094 g, 69%), m.p. 214-215°C.

NMR Spectrum ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ ,  $\delta$  values) 1.9-2.05 (m, 4H), 2.95 (s, 3H), 3.45 (2 s's, 6H), 3.8-3.9 (m, 4H), 7.0-8.0 (m, 7H).

#### EXAMPLE 5

Using a similar procedure to that described in Example 4, 4-methoxy-4-[3-(3-methyl-2-oxo-2,3-dihydrobenzothiazol-6-ylthio)-phenyl]tetrahydropyran was oxidised with potassium peroxymonosulphate to give 4-methoxy-4-[3-(3-methyl-2-oxo-2,3-dihydrobenzothiazol-6-ylsulphonyl)phenyl]tetrahydropyran in 75% yield, m.p. 174-176°C.

NMR Spectrum ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ ,  $\delta$  values) 1.85-2.05 (m, 4H), 2.95 (s, 3H), 3.5 (s, 3H), 3.8-3.9 (m, 4H), 7.1-8.05 (m, 7H).

#### EXAMPLE 6

Using a similar procedure to that described in Example 4, 4-methoxy-4-[3-(3-methyl-2-oxo-2,3-dihydrobenzoxazol-6-ylthio)-phenyl]tetrahydropyran was oxidised with potassium peroxymonosulphate to give 4-methoxy-4-[3-(3-methyl-2-oxo-2,3-dihydrobenzoxazol-6-ylsulphonyl)phenyl]tetrahydropyran in 73% yield, m.p. 163-165°C.

NMR Spectrum ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ ,  $\delta$  values) 1.9-2.1 (m, 4H), 2.95 (s, 3H), 3.4 (s, 3H), 3.8-3.9 (m, 4H), 7.1-8.0 (m, 7H).

#### EXAMPLE 7

A mixture of 6-bromomethyl-3-methyl-2,3-dihydrobenzothiazol-2-one (0.36 g), 4-(5-fluoro-3-hydroxyphenyl)-4-methoxytetrahydropyran (0.3 g), potassium carbonate (0.276 g) and DMF (5 ml) was stirred at ambient temperature for 16 hours. The mixture was poured onto a mixture of ice and water (10 ml) and extracted with ethyl acetate. The organic phase was washed with brine, dried ( $\text{MgSO}_4$ ) and evaporated. The residue was triturated in a mixture of diethyl ether and hexane. There was thus obtained 4-[5-fluoro-3-(3-methyl-2-oxo-2,3-dihydrobenzothiazol-6-ylmethoxy)phenyl]-4-methoxytetrahydropyran (0.414 g, 77%), m.p. 104-106°C.

NMR Spectrum ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ ,  $\delta$  values) 1.9-2.0 (m, 4H), 3.0 (s, 3H), 3.5 (s, 3H), 3.8-3.9 (m, 4H), 5.05 (s, 2H), 6.6-6.8 (m, 3H), 7.0-7.1 (m, 1H), 7.4 (m, 1H), 7.5 (d, 1H).

The 6-bromomethyl-3-methyl-2,3-dihydrobenzothiazol-2-one used as a starting material was obtained as follows:-

1,1'-Carbonyldiamidazole (2 g) was added to a suspension of 2-amino-5-methylphenylthiol (1.39 g; *J. Chem. Soc. (C)*, 1969, 2148) in THF (40 ml) which had been cooled in an ice-bath. The mixture was stirred for 16 hours and allowed to warm to ambient temperature. The mixture was evaporated. The residue was triturated in a mixture of diethyl ether and water to give 6-methyl-2,3-dihydrobenzothiazol-2-one (0.57 g, 36%), m.p. 163-166°C. The mother liquors were evaporated and the resultant residue was partitioned between ethyl acetate and water. The organic phase was washed with brine, dried ( $\text{MgSO}_4$ ) and evaporated. The residue was triturated in diethyl ether. There was thus obtained a second crop of the benzothiazol-2-one (0.4 g, 24%).



Sodium hydride (55% dispersion in oil, 0.26 g) was added to a mixture of the product so obtained (0.95 g) and DMF (10 ml) which had been cooled in an ice-water bath. The mixture was stirred at 0°C for 1.5 hours and then cooled to -20°C. Methyl iodide (0.85 g) in DMF (4 ml) was added dropwise and the mixture was stirred for 3 hours and allowed to warm to 5°C. The mixture was partitioned between cold dilute hydrochloric acid and ethyl acetate. The organic phase was washed with water and brine, dried (MgSO<sub>4</sub>) and evaporated. The residue was purified by column chromatography using a 19:1 v/v mixture of toluene and ethyl acetate as eluent. There was thus obtained 3,6-dimethyl-2,3-dihydrobenzothiazol-2-one (0.85 g, 83%), m.p. 70-71°C.

A mixture of the product so obtained (0.83 g), N-bromosuccinimide (0.87 g), azobisisobutyronitrile (0.01 g) and carbon tetrachloride (20 ml) was stirred and heated to reflux for 2 hours. The mixture was cooled to ambient temperature and partitioned between methylene chloride and water. The organic phase was dried (MgSO<sub>4</sub>) and evaporated. There was thus obtained 6-bromomethyl-3-methyl-2,3-dihydrobenzothiazol-2-one (0.8 g, 67%), m.p. 146-149°C.

NMR Spectrum (CDCl<sub>3</sub>,  $\delta$  values) 3.45 (s, 3H), 4.5 (s, 2H), 7.0 (d, 1H), 7.3-7.4 (m, 1H), 7.5 (d, 1H).

The 4-(5-fluoro-3-hydroxyphenyl)-4-methoxytetrahydropyran used as a starting material was obtained as follows:-

Sodium hydride (50% w/w dispersion in mineral oil, 12.4 g) was added portionwise to a mixture of benzyl alcohol (26.7 ml) and DMA (500 ml) and the mixture was stirred at ambient temperature for 1 hour. 1-Bromo-3,5-difluorobenzene (50 g) was added carefully to control the vigour of the ensuing exothermic reaction. The mixture was stirred at ambient temperature for 2 hours and the solvent was evaporated. The residue was partitioned between methylene chloride and water and the organic phase was washed with water (4 x 50 ml), dried (MgSO<sub>4</sub>) and evaporated. The residue was purified by distillation to give 3-benzyloxy-1-bromo-5-fluorobenzene (41.8 g, 57%), as a colourless liquid (b.p. 124-130°C at 0.3 mm Hg).

A solution of a portion (9.75 g) of this product in THF (150 ml) was cooled to -75°C and n-butyllithium (1.6M in hexane, 22 ml) was added dropwise. The mixture was stirred at -75°C for 1 hour and a solution of tetrahydropyran-4-one (3.47 g) in THF (10 ml) was added dropwise. The mixture was stirred at -75°C for 1 hour and then allowed to warm to 0°C. A saturated aqueous ammonium chloride solution (50 ml) was added and the organic phase was separated, dried (MgSO<sub>4</sub>) and evaporated. The residue was purified by column chromatography using a 1:1 v/v mixture of toluene and ethyl acetate as eluent. There was thus obtained 4-(3-benzyloxy-5-fluorophenyl)-4-hydroxytetrahydropyran (7.4 g, 71%) as an oil.

After appropriate repetition of the above-mentioned reaction the product so obtained (12.1 g) was dissolved in THF (150 ml) and sodium hydride (50% w/w dispersion in mineral oil, 2.11 g) was added portionwise. The mixture was stirred at ambient temperature for 1 hour, cooled in an ice-bath and methyl iodide (3.75 ml) was added dropwise. The mixture was stirred at ambient temperature for 18 hours, 2N aqueous hydrochloric acid (3 drops) was added and the organic solvent was evaporated. The residue was partitioned between ethyl acetate and water. The organic phase was separated, washed with water and with brine, dried (MgSO<sub>4</sub>) and evaporated. There was thus obtained 4-(3-benzyloxy-5-fluorophenyl)-4-methoxytetrahydropyran (12.5 g, 99%), as a pale yellow oil which was used without further purification.

A solution of the product so obtained in ethanol (100 ml) was hydrogenated in the presence of 10% palladium-on-charcoal catalyst for 3 hours. The mixture was filtered and the filtrate was evaporated. There was thus obtained 4-(5-fluoro-3-hydroxyphenyl)-4-methoxytetrahydropyran (7.7 g, 86%), m.p. 123-124°C.

#### EXAMPLE 8

The procedure described in Example 7 was repeated except that 6-bromomethyl-3-methyl-2,3-dihydrobenzoxazol-2-one was used in place of 6-bromomethyl-3-methyl-2,3-dihydrobenzothiazol-2-one. There was thus obtained 4-[5-fluoro-3-(3-methyl-2-oxo-2,3-dihydrobenzoxazol-6-ylmethoxy)phenyl]-4-methoxytetrahydropyran in 80% yield, m.p. 139-141°C.

NMR Spectrum (CDCl<sub>3</sub>,  $\delta$  values) 1.9-2.0 (m, 4H), 3.0 (s, 3H), 3.4 (s, 3H), 3.8-3.9 (m, 4H), 5.1 (s, 2H), 6.8-6.8 (m, 3H), 7.0 (m, 1H), 7.2-7.3 (m, 2H).

The 6-bromomethyl-3-methyl-2,3-dihydrobenzoxazol-2-one used as a starting material was obtained as follows:-

The procedures described in the second and third paragraphs of the portion of Example 7 which is concerned with the preparation of 6-bromomethyl-3-methyl-2,3-dihydrobenzothiazol-2-one were repeated except that 6-methyl-2,3-dihydrobenzoxazol-2-one (*J. Het. Chem.*, 1982, 19, 1545) was used in place of 6-methyl-2,3-dihydrobenzothiazol-2-one. There were thus obtained in turn:- 3,6-dimethyl-2-oxo-2,3-dihydrobenzoxazol-2-one in 80% yield, m.p. 108-110°C; and 6-bromomethyl-3-methyl-2,3-dihydrobenzoxazol-2-one in 80% yield, m.p. 145-150°C, NMR Spectrum (CDCl<sub>3</sub>,  $\delta$  values) 3.4 (s, 3H), 4.55 (s, 2H), 6.9 (d, 1H), 7.2-7.3 (m, 2H).



**EXAMPLE 9**

The procedure described in Example 7 was repeated except that 6-bromo-5-bromomethyl-1,3-dimethyl-2,3-dihydrobenzimidazol-2-one was used in place of 6-bromomethyl-3-methyl-2,3-dihydrobenzoxazol-2-one. There was thus obtained 4-[3-(6-bromo-1,3-dimethyl-2-oxo-2,3-dihydrobenzimidazol-5-ylmethoxy)-5-fluorophenyl]-4-methoxytetrahydropyran in 50% yield, m.p. 161-162°C.

NMR Spectrum (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, δ values) 1.9-2.1 (m, 4H), 3.0 (s, 3H), 3.4 (s, 6H), 3.8-3.9 (m, 4H), 5.2 (s, 2H), 6.6-6.9 (m, 3H), 7.15 (s, 1H), 7.2 (s, 1H).

The 6-bromo-5-bromomethyl-1,3-dimethyl-2,3-dihydrobenzimidazol-2-one used as a starting material was obtained as follows:-

The procedures described in the first and second paragraphs of the portion of Example 7 which is concerned with the preparation of 6-bromomethyl-3-methyl-2,3-dihydrobenzothiazol-2-one were repeated except that 3,4-diaminotoluene was used in place of 2-amino-5-methylphenylthiol. There were thus obtained in turn:- 5-methyl-2,3-dihydrobenzimidazol-2-one in 75% yield, m.p. >250°C; and 1,3,5-trimethyl-2,3-dihydrobenzimidazol-2-one in 77% yield, m.p. 102°C.

A mixture of the product so obtained (1.4 g), N-bromosuccinimide (1.5 g), azobisisobutyronitrile (5 mg) and carbon tetrachloride (30 ml) was stirred and heated to reflux. A second portion (5 mg) of azobisisobutyronitrile was added and the mixture was maintained at reflux for 1.5 hours. The mixture was cooled to ambient temperature and partitioned between methylene chloride and water. The organic phase was washed with water, dried (MgSO<sub>4</sub>) and evaporated. The solid residue was washed with diethyl ether and dried. There was thus obtained 6-bromo-1,3,5-trimethyl-2,3-dihydrobenzimidazol-2-one (0.4 g, 69%), m.p. 132-137°C.

The product so obtained was treated with N-bromosuccinimide using the procedure described immediately above. There was thus obtained 6-bromo-5-bromomethyl-1,3-dimethyl-2,3-dihydrobenzimidazol-2-one in 84% yield, as a solid.

NMR Spectrum (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, δ values) 3.4 (2 s's, 6H), 4.7 (s, 2H), 7.05 (s, 1H), 7.26 (s, 1H).

**EXAMPLE 10**

A mixture of 4-[3-(6-bromo-1,3-dimethyl-2-oxo-2,3-dihydrobenzimidazol-5-ylmethoxy)-5-fluorophenyl]-4-methoxytetrahydropyran (0.19 g), sodium formate (0.06 g), tetrakis(triphenylphosphine)-palladium (0.047 g) and DMF (2 ml) was heated to 100°C for 2 hours. Equivalent amounts of sodium formate and the palladium catalyst were added portionwise over the following 4 hours as the mixture was maintained at a temperature of 100°C. The mixture was cooled to ambient temperature and partitioned between ethyl acetate and water. The organic phase was washed with water and with brine, dried (MgSO<sub>4</sub>) and evaporated. The residue was purified by column chromatography using a 5:3 v/v mixture of toluene and ethyl acetate as eluent. The product so obtained was triturated in diethyl ether. The solid so obtained was filtered off and dried. There was thus obtained 4-[5-fluoro-3-(1,3-dimethyl-2-oxo-2,3-dihydrobenzimidazol-5-ylmethoxy)phenyl]-4-methoxytetrahydropyran (0.09 g, 57%), m.p. 136-137°C.

NMR Spectrum (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, δ values) 1.9-2.0 (m, 4H), 3.0 (s, 3H), 3.45 (2 s's, 6H), 3.8-3.9 (m, 4H), 5.1 (s, 2H), 6.6-6.8 (m, 3H), 7.0-7.2 (m, 3H).

**EXAMPLE 11**

The procedure described in Example 1 was repeated except that 5-iodo-1,3,3-trimethylindolin-2-one was used in place of 5-iodo-1,3-dimethyl-2,3-dihydrobenzimidazol-2-one. The crude product so obtained was purified by column chromatography using increasingly polar mixtures of hexane and ethyl acetate as eluent. The product so obtained was further purified by column chromatography on reverse phase silica using decreasingly polar mixtures of methanol and water as eluent. There was thus obtained 4-methoxy-4-[3-(1,3,3-trimethyl-2-oxoindolin-5-ylthio)phenyl]tetrahydropyran in 23% yield, m.p. 132-134°C.

NMR Spectrum (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, δ values) 1.35 (s, 6H), 1.85-2.05 (m, 4H), 2.95 (s, 3H), 3.25 (s, 3H), 3.75-3.85 (m, 4H), 6.85 (d, 1H), 7.1 (m, 1H), 7.18-7.3 (m, 4H), 7.4 (m, 1H).

The 5-iodo-1,3,3-trimethylindolin-2-one used as a starting material was obtained as follows:-

The procedure described in the last paragraph of the portion of Example 1 which is concerned with the preparation of 5-iodo-1,3-dimethyl-2,3-dihydrobenzimidazol-2-one was repeated except that 1,3,3-trimethylindolin-2-one (J. Amer. Chem. Soc., 1934, 56, 1797) was used as the starting material. There was thus obtained the required starting material in 76% yield, m.p. 153-154°C.

NMR Spectrum (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, δ values) 1.45 (s, 6H), 3.2 (s, 3H), 6.54 (d, 1H), 7.48 (d, 1H), 7.6 (d of d's, 1H).

**EXAMPLE 12**

Using a similar procedure to that described in Example 4, 4-methoxy-4-[3-(1,3,3-trimethyl-2-oxoindolin-5-ylthio)phenyl]-tetrahydropyran was oxidised with potassium peroxymonosulphate to give 4-methoxy-4-[3-(1,3,3-trimethyl-2-oxoindolin-5-ylsulphonyl)phenyl]-tetrahydropyran in 80% yield, m.p. 164-166°C.  
 5 NMR Spectrum (CDCl<sub>3</sub>,  $\delta$  values) 1.48 (s, 6H), 1.88-2.10 (m, 4H), 2.95 (s, 3H), 3.25 (s, 3H), 3.8-3.9 (m, 4H), 6.9 (d, 1H), 7.55 (m, 1H), 7.6 (m, 1H), 7.75 (m, 1H), 7.85 (m, 1H), 7.90 (m, 1H), 7.95 (m, 1H).

**EXAMPLE 13**

10 The procedure described in Example 7 was repeated except that 5-bromomethyl-1,3,3-trimethylindolin-2-one was used in place of 6-bromomethyl-3-methyl-2,3-dihydrobenzothiazol-2-one. The crude product so obtained was purified by column chromatography on alumina using a 4:1 v/v mixture of methylene chloride and acetone as eluent. There was thus obtained 4-[5-fluoro-3-(1,3,3-trimethyl-2-oxoindolin-5-ylmethoxy)phenyl]-4-methoxytetrahydropyran in 17% yield, m.p. 124-126°C.

15 The 5-bromomethyl-1,3,3-trimethylindolin-2-one used as a starting material was obtained as follows:-  
 A mixture of 1,3,3,5-tetramethylindolin-2-one (0.378 g; Chem. Abs., 1971, 77, 116019g), N-bromosuccinimide (0.484 g), benzoyl peroxide (0.01 g) and carbon tetrachloride (10 ml) was stirred and irradiated with the light from a 250 Watt lamp. The mixture was heated to 40°C for 75 minutes. The mixture was cooled to ambient  
 20 temperature, petroleum ether (b.p. 40-60°C) was added and the mixture was filtered. The filtrate was evaporated to give the required starting material as an oil (0.65 g, 70%) which was used without further purification.

**EXAMPLE 14**

25 The procedure described in Example 7 was repeated except that 5-bromomethyl-1-methylindolin-2,3-dione was used in place of 6-bromomethyl-3-methyl-2,3-dihydrobenzothiazol-2-one. The crude product was purified by column chromatography using increasingly polar mixtures of methylene chloride and diethyl ether as eluent. There was thus obtained 4-[5-fluoro-3-(1-methyl-2,3-dioxoindolin-5-ylmethoxy)-phenyl]-4-methoxytetrahydropyran in 75% yield, m.p. 138-140°C.

30 The 5-bromomethyl-1-methylindolin-2,3-dione used as a starting material was obtained from 1,5-dimethylindolin-2,3-dione (Chem. Abs., 1983, 99, 105082a) using a similar procedure to that described in the portion of Example 13 which is concerned with the preparation of starting materials except that the reaction mixture was heated to reflux for 1 hour. There was thus obtained the required starting material in 58% yield as a solid  
 35 which was used without further purification.

**EXAMPLE 15**

40 Water (approximately 4 ml) was added dropwise to a solution of 4-[5-fluoro-3-(1-methyl-2,3-dioxoindolin-5-ylmethoxy)phenyl]-4-methoxytetrahydropyran (0.16 g) in 1,4-dioxane (3 ml) until a solid began to be precipitated. The mixture was heated to reflux and sodium dithionite (0.143 g) was added in four portions over 15 minutes and after each addition water (1 ml) was added to wash all of the dithionite into the reaction mixture. The reaction mixture was cooled and poured into water. The mixture was extracted with diethyl ether and then  
 45 with ethyl acetate. The combined extracts were washed with water and brine, dried (MgSO<sub>4</sub>) and evaporated. The residue was purified by column chromatography using a 19:1 v/v mixture of methylene chloride and methanol as eluent. There was thus obtained 4-[5-fluoro-3-(3-hydroxy-1-methyl-2-oxoindolin-5-ylmethoxy)phenyl]-4-methoxytetrahydropyran (0.126 g, 79%), m.p. 134-139°C (recrystallised from diethyl ether).

**EXAMPLE 16**

50 Using a similar procedure to that described in Example 1, 5-iodo-1,3-dimethyl-2,3-dihydrobenzimidazol-2-one was reacted with 4-(5-fluoro-3-mercaptophenyl)-4-methoxytetrahydropyran to give 4-[3-(1,3-dimethyl-2-oxo-2,3-dihydrobenzimidazol-5-ylthio)-5-fluoro-phenyl]-4-methoxytetrahydropyran in 60% yield, m.p. 128-130°C.

55 The 4-(5-fluoro-3-mercaptophenyl)-4-methoxytetrahydropyran, used as a starting material, is described in European Patent Application No. 0420511 (Example 4 thereof).

**EXAMPLE 17**

Diethylaminosulphur trifluoride (0.082 ml) was added dropwise to a stirred solution of 4-[5-fluoro-3-(1-methyl-2,3-dioxoindol-5-ylmethoxy)phenyl]-4-methoxytetrahydropyran (0.1 g) in a mixture of methylene chloride (2.5 ml) and fluorotrichloromethane (2.5 ml) which had been cooled to 0°C. The mixture was allowed to warm to ambient temperature and stirred at this temperature for 16 hours. The mixture was evaporated and the residue was purified by column chromatography using increasingly polar mixtures of methylene chloride and diethyl ether as eluent. There was thus obtained 4-[5-fluoro-3-(3,3-difluoro-1-methyl-2-oxoindolin-5-ylmethoxy)phenyl]-4-methoxytetrahydropyran (0.03 g, 29%), as a foam which crystallised on trituration under diethyl ether, m.p. 151°C.

**EXAMPLE 18**

The following illustrate representative pharmaceutical dosage forms containing the compound of formula I, or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof (hereafter compound X), for therapeutic or prophylactic use in humans:

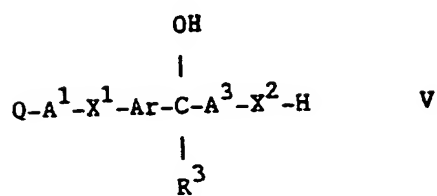
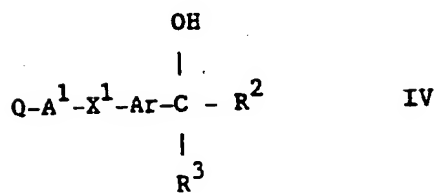
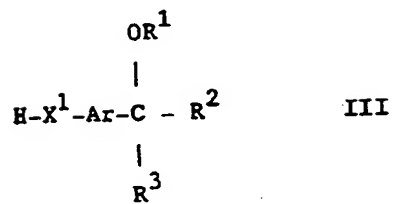
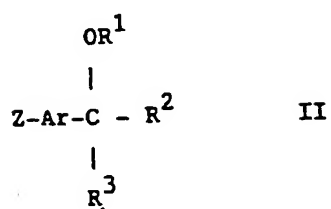
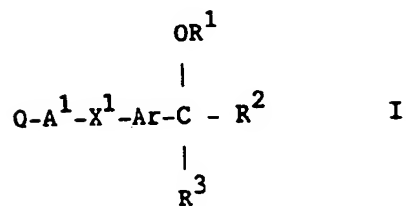
(a)	<u>Tablet I</u>	<u>mg/tablet</u>
20	Compound X.....	100
	Lactose Ph.Eur.....	182.75
	Croscarmellose sodium.....	12.0
25	Maize starch paste (5% v/v paste).....	2.25
	Magnesium stearate.....	3.0
(b)	<u>Tablet II</u>	<u>mg/tablet</u>
30	Compound X.....	50
	Lactose Ph.Eur.....	223.75
	Croscarmellose sodium.....	6.0
35	Maize starch.....	15.0
	Polyvinylpyrrolidone (5% v/v paste).....	2.25
	Magnesium stearate.....	3.0
40	(c)	
	<u>Tablet III</u>	<u>mg/tablet</u>
	Compound X.....	1.0
	Lactose Ph.Eur.....	93.25
45	Croscarmellose sodium.....	4.0
	Maize starch paste (5% w/v paste).....	0.75
	Magnesium stearate.....	1.0
50	(d)	
	<u>Capsule</u>	<u>mg/capsule</u>
	Compound X.....	10
	Lactose Ph.Eur .....	488.5
55	Magnesium stearate .....	1.5

			(50 mg/ml)
	(e)	<u>Injection I</u>	
5		Compound X .....	5.0% w/v
		1M Sodium hydroxide solution .....	15.0% v/v
		0.1M Hydrochloric acid	
		(to adjust pH to 7.6)	
10		Polyethylene glycol 400.....	4.5% w/v
		Water for injection to 100%	
	(f)	<u>Injection II</u>	(10 mg/ml)
15		Compound X .....	1.0% w/v
		Sodium phosphate BP .....	3.6% v/v
		0.1M Sodium hydroxide solution .....	15.0% v/v
20		Water for injection to 100%	
	(g)	<u>Injection III</u>	(1mg/ml,buffered to pH6)
25		Compound X .....	0.1% w/v
		Sodium phosphate BP .....	2.26% v/v
		Citric acid .....	0.38% v/v
		Polyethylene glycol 400 .....	3.5% v/v
30		Water for injection to 100%	
	(h)	<u>Aerosol I</u>	mg/ml
35		Compound X .....	10.0
		Sorbitan trioleate .....	13.5
		Trichlorofluoromethane .....	910.0
40		Dichlorodifluoromethane .....	490.0
	(i)	<u>Aerosol II</u>	mg/ml
		Compound X .....	0.2
45		Sorbitan trioleate .....	0.27
		Trichlorofluoromethane .....	70.0
		Dichlorodifluoromethane .....	280.0
50		Dichlorotetrafluoroethane .....	1094.0

	(j)	<u>Aerosol III</u>	<u>mg/ml</u>
		Compound X .....	2.5
5		Sorbitan trioleate .....	3.38
		Trichlorofluoromethane .....	67.5
		Dichlorodifluoromethane .....	1086.0
		Dichlorotetrafluoroethane .....	191.6
10			
	(k)	<u>Aerosol IV</u>	<u>mg/ml</u>
		Compound X .....	2.5
15		Soya lecithin .....	2.7
		Trichlorofluoromethane .....	67.5
		Dichlorodifluoromethane .....	1086.0
20		Dichlorotetrafluoroethane .....	191.6

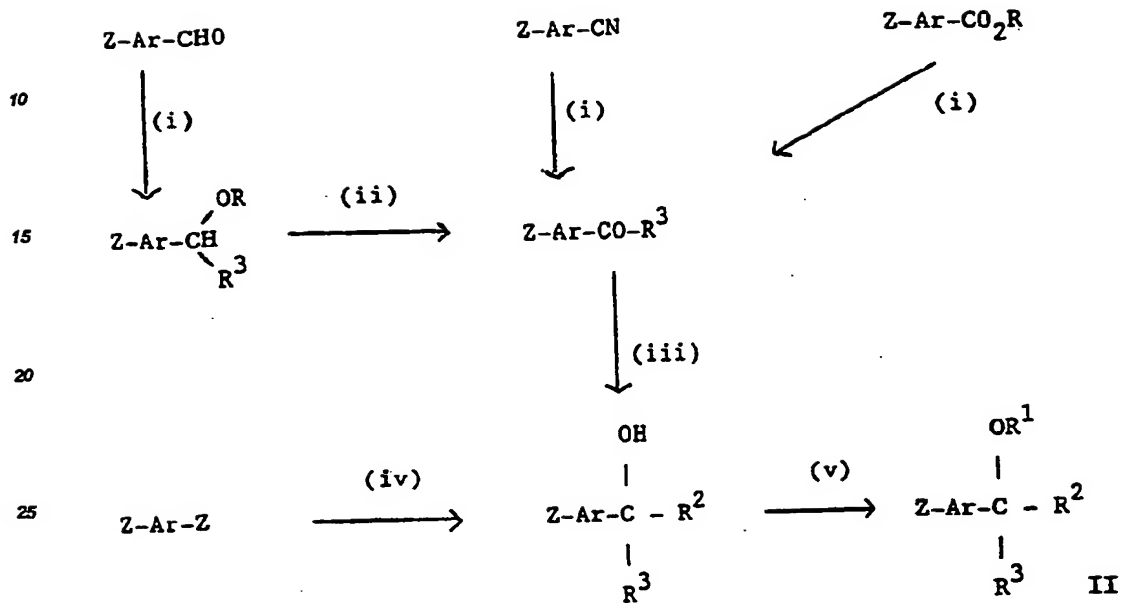
Note

The above formulations may be obtained by conventional procedures well known in the pharmaceutical art. The tablets (a)-(c) may be enteric coated by conventional means, for example to provide a coating of cellulose acetate phthalate. The aerosol formulations (h)-(k) may be used in conjunction with standard, metered dose aerosol dispensers, and the suspending agents sorbitan trioleate and soya lecithin may be replaced by an alternative suspending agent such as sorbitan monooleate, sorbitan sesquileate, polysorbate 80, polyglycerol oleate or oleic acid.

CHEMICAL FORMULAE

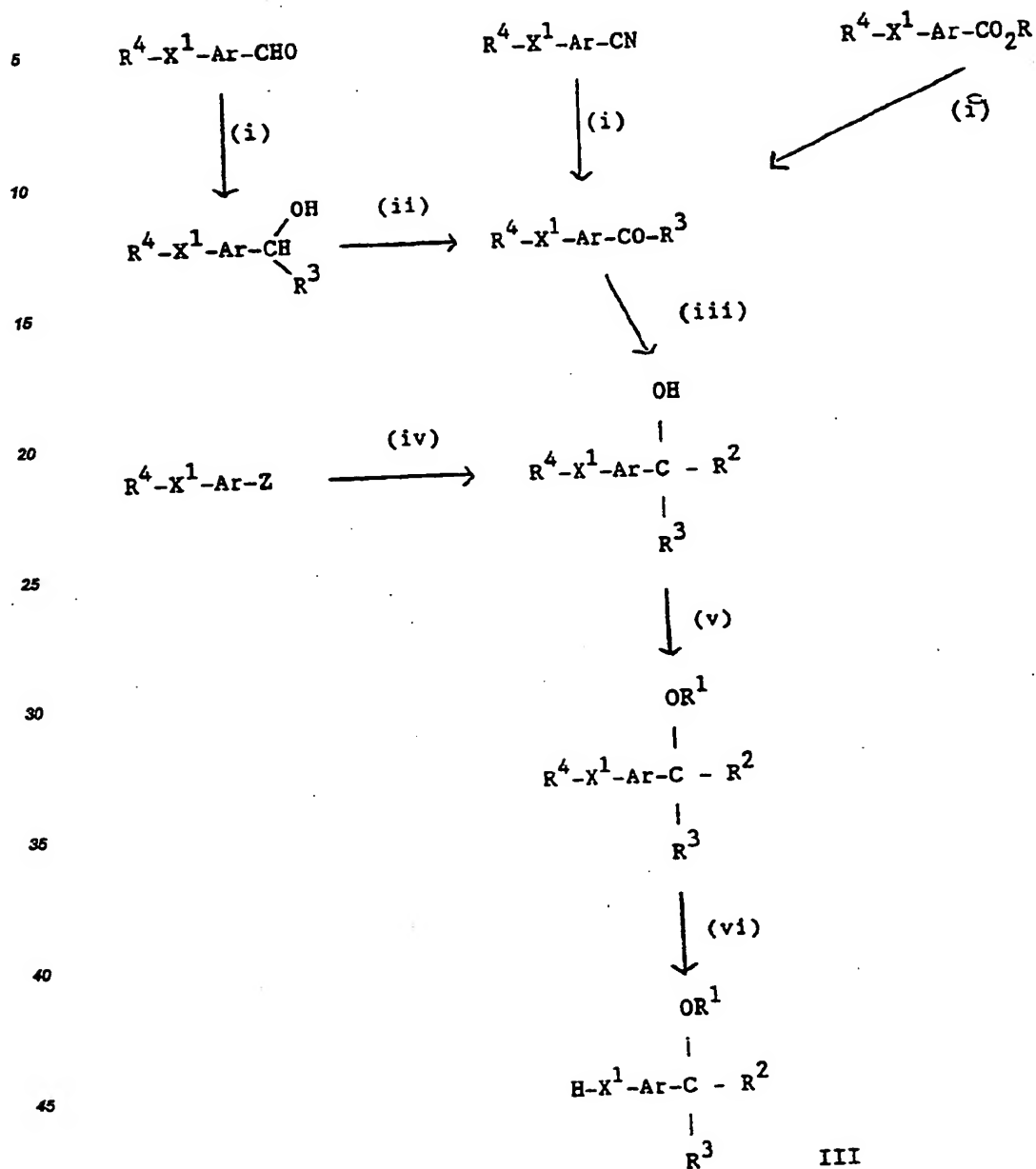
SCHEME I

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Reagents(i)  $\text{R}^3\text{Li}$  or  $\text{R}^3\text{MgZ}$ , THF(ii) DDQ or  $\text{MnO}_2$ (iii)  $\text{R}^2\text{Li}$  or  $\text{R}^2\text{MgZ}$ , THF;(iv)  $\text{BuLi}$  or  $\text{Mg}$ , THF;  $\text{R}^2\text{COR}^3$ , THF(v)  $\text{R}^1\text{Z}$ , baseNote  $\text{R} = (1-4\text{C})\text{alkyl}$  such as Me or Et



## SCHEME II



## Reagents

(i) to (v) as in Scheme I

(vi) Conventional removal of the protecting group R<sup>4</sup> which is, e.g., COMe, THP, CH<sub>2</sub>Ph or Me.

SCHEME III

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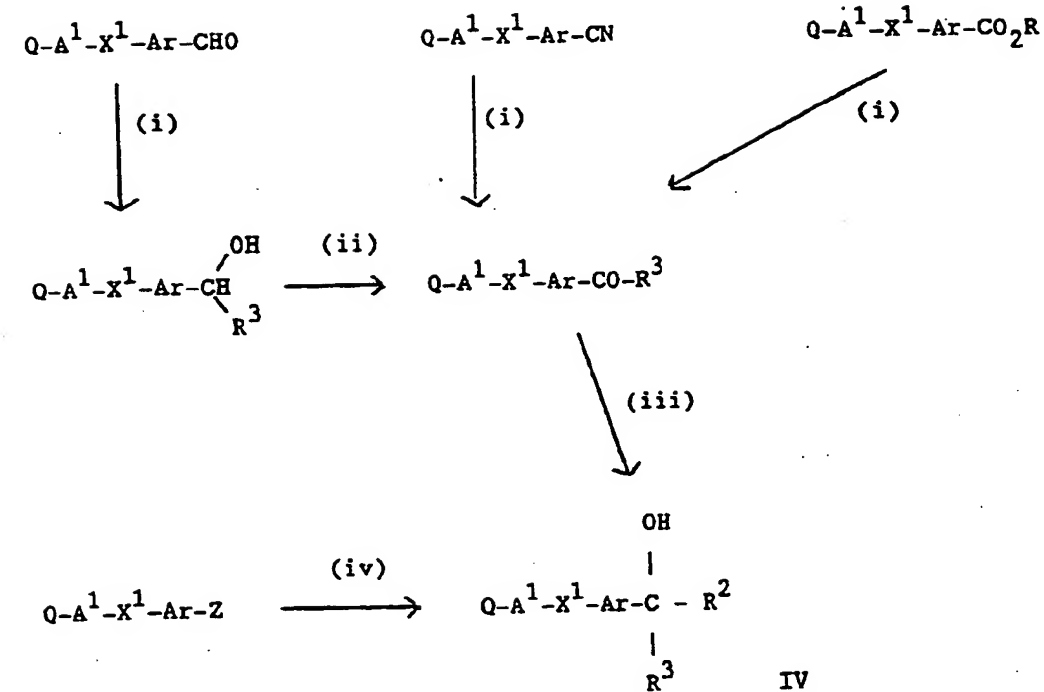
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Reagents

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(i) to (iv) as in Scheme I

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SCHEME IV

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Reagents

- 40 (i) BuLi or Mg, THF;  $R^3\text{-CO-A}^3\text{-X}^2\text{-R}^4$   
 (ii)  $R^4\text{-X}^2\text{-A}^3\text{-Li}$  or  $R^4\text{-X}^2\text{-A}^3\text{-MgZ}$ , THF  
 (iii) Conventional removal of the protecting group  $R^4$  which is, e.g. COMe, THP,  $\text{CH}_2\text{Ph}$  or Me.

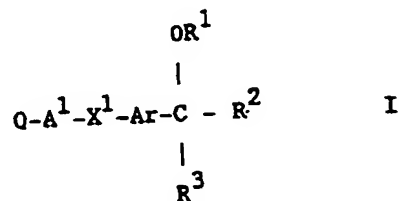
Claims

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1. A bicyclic heterocyclic derivative of the formula I

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wherein Q is a 9-membered bicyclic heterocyclic moiety containing one or two nitrogen heteroatoms and optionally containing a further heteroatom selected from nitrogen, oxygen and sulphur, which heterocyclic

moiety may optionally bear one or two oxo or thioxo substituents and up to four further substituents selected from halogeno, hydroxy, cyano, amino, (1-4C)alkyl, (1-4C)alkoxy, fluoro-(1-4C)alkyl, (1-4C)alkylamino, di-[(1-4C)alkyl]amino, amino-(1-4C)alkyl, (1-4C)alkylamino-(1-4C)alkyl, di-[(1-4C)alkyl]amino-(1-4C)alkyl, phenyl and phenyl-(1-4C)alkyl, and wherein said phenyl or phenyl-(1-4C)alkyl substituent may optionally bear a substituent selected from halogeno, (1-4C)alkyl and (1-4C)alkoxy;

wherein A<sup>1</sup> is a direct link to X<sup>1</sup> or is (1-3C)alkylene;

wherein X<sup>1</sup> is oxy, thio, sulphinyl, sulphonyl or imino;

wherein Ar is phenylene which may optionally bear one or two substituents selected from halogeno, hydroxy, amino, nitro, cyano, carbamoyl, ureido, (1-4C)alkyl, (1-4C)alkoxy, (1-4C)alkylamino, di-[(1-4C)alkyl]amino, fluoro-(1-4C)alkyl and (2-4C)alkanoylamino; or

Ar is pyridylene;

wherein R<sup>1</sup> is (1-4C)alkyl, (3-4C)alkenyl or (3-4C)alkynyl; and

wherein R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> together form a group of the formula -A<sup>2</sup>-X<sup>2</sup>-A<sup>3</sup>- which, together with the carbon atom to which A<sup>2</sup> and A<sup>3</sup> are attached, defines a ring having 5 to 7 ring atoms, wherein A<sup>2</sup> and A<sup>3</sup>, which may be the same or different, each is (1-3C)alkylene and X<sup>2</sup> is oxy, thio, sulphinyl or sulphonyl, and which ring may bear one, two or three substituents, which may be the same or different, selected from hydroxy, (1-4C)alkyl and (1-4C)alkoxy;

or wherein R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>2</sup> together form a group of the formula -A<sup>2</sup>-X<sup>2</sup>-A<sup>3</sup>- which, together with the oxygen atom to which A<sup>2</sup> is attached and with the carbon atom to which A<sup>3</sup> is attached, defines a ring having 5 to 7 ring atoms, wherein A<sup>2</sup> and A<sup>3</sup>, which may be the same or different, each is (1-3C)alkylene and X<sup>2</sup> is oxy, thio, sulphinyl or sulphonyl, and which ring may bear one, two or three (1-4C)alkyl substituents, and wherein R<sup>3</sup> is (1-4C)alkyl, (2-4C)alkenyl or (2-4C)alkynyl;

or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof.

2. A bicyclic heterocyclic derivative of the formula I as claimed in claim 1 wherein Q is indolyl, indolyl, benzimidazolyl, 2,3-dihydrobenzimidazolyl, 1H-indazolyl, 2,3-dihydro-1H-indazolyl, benzoxazolyl, 2,3-dihydrobenzoxazolyl, benzothiazolyl or 2,3-dihydrobenzothiazolyl, which may optionally bear one or two oxo or thioxo substituents and up to four substituents selected from fluoro, chloro, bromo, hydroxy, cyano, amino, methyl, ethyl, propyl, methoxy, trifluoromethyl, 2-fluoroethyl, 2,2,2-trifluoroethyl, 2-methylaminoethyl, 2-dimethylaminoethyl, phenyl and benzyl, and wherein said phenyl or benzyl substituent may optionally bear a substituent selected from chloro, methyl and methoxy;

A<sup>1</sup> is a direct link to X<sup>1</sup> or is methylene;

X<sup>1</sup> is oxy, thio, sulphinyl or sulphonyl;

Ar is 1,3-phenylene or 1,4-phenylene which may optionally bear one or two substituents selected from fluoro, chloro, hydroxy, amino, nitro, ureido, methoxy, dimethylamino, trifluoromethyl and acetamido; or Ar is 3,5-pyridylene;

R<sup>1</sup> is methyl, ethyl, allyl or 2-propynyl; and

R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> together form a group of the formula -A<sup>2</sup>-X<sup>2</sup>-A<sup>3</sup>- which, together with the carbon atom to which A<sup>2</sup> and A<sup>3</sup> are attached, defines a ring having 5 or 6 ring atoms, wherein A<sup>2</sup> is ethylene, A<sup>3</sup> is methylene or ethylene, and X<sup>2</sup> is oxy, and which ring may bear one or two substituents selected from methyl, ethyl, propyl, methoxy and ethoxy;

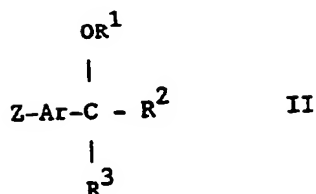
or R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>2</sup> together form a group of the formula -A<sup>2</sup>-X<sup>2</sup>-A<sup>3</sup>- which, together with the oxygen atom to which A<sup>2</sup> is attached and with the carbon atom to which A<sup>3</sup> is attached, defines a ring having 5 or 6 ring atoms, wherein A<sup>2</sup> is methylene, A<sup>3</sup> is methylene or ethylene, and X<sup>2</sup> is oxy, and which ring may bear one, two or three substituents selected from methyl, ethyl and propyl, and R<sup>3</sup> is methyl or ethyl; or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof.

3. A bicyclic heterocyclic derivative of the formula I as claimed in claim 1 wherein Q is 2-oxoindolin-5-yl, 2,3-dioxoindolin-5-yl, 2-oxo-2,3-dihydrobenzimidazol-5-yl, 2-oxo-2,3-dihydrobenzoxazol-6-yl or 2-oxo-2,3-dihydrobenzothiazol-6-yl which may optionally bear one, two or three substituents selected from fluoro, chloro, hydroxy, methyl, ethyl, propyl, 2-fluoroethyl, 2-dimethylaminoethyl, phenyl and benzyl;
- A<sup>1</sup> is a direct link to X<sup>1</sup>, or is methylene;
- X<sup>1</sup> is oxy, thio, sulphinyl or sulphonyl;
- Ar is 1,3-phenylene or 1,4-phenylene which may optionally bear one or two substituents selected from fluoro, hydroxy, amino, nitro, ureido, methoxy, dimethylamino, trifluoromethyl and acetamido; or Ar is 3,5-pyridylene;

R<sup>1</sup> is methyl, ethyl, allyl or 2-propynyl; and

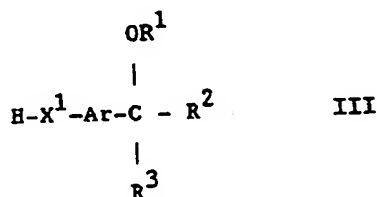
R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> together form a group of the formula -A<sup>2</sup>-X<sup>2</sup>-A<sup>3</sup>- which, together with the carbon atom to which A<sup>2</sup> and A<sup>3</sup> are attached, defines a ring having 5 or 6 ring atoms, wherein A<sup>2</sup> is ethylene, A<sup>3</sup> is methylene or ethylene, and X<sup>2</sup> is oxy, and which ring may bear one or two substituents selected from methyl and ethyl; or R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>2</sup> together form a group of the formula -A<sup>2</sup>-X<sup>2</sup>-A<sup>3</sup>- which, together with the oxygen atom to which A<sup>2</sup> is attached and with the carbon atom to which A<sup>3</sup> is attached, defines a ring having 5 ring atoms, wherein A<sup>2</sup> is methylene, A<sup>3</sup> is methylene, and X<sup>2</sup> is oxy, and which ring may bear one, two or three substituents selected from methyl and ethyl, and R<sup>3</sup> is methyl or ethyl; or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof.

4. A bicyclic heterocyclic derivative of the formula I as claimed in claim 1 wherein Q is 1,3,3-trimethyl-2-oxindolin-5-yl, 1,3-dimethyl-2-oxo-2,3-dihydrobenzimidazol-5-yl or 3-methyl-2-oxo-2,3-dihydrobenzothiazol-6-yl; A<sup>1</sup> is a direct link to X<sup>1</sup>; X<sup>1</sup> is thio; Ar is 1,3-phenylene or 5-fluoro-1,3-phenylene; R<sup>1</sup> is methyl; and R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> together form a group of the formula -A<sup>2</sup>-X<sup>2</sup>-A<sup>3</sup>- which, together with the carbon atom to which A<sup>2</sup> and A<sup>3</sup> are attached, defines a ring having 6 ring atoms, wherein each of A<sup>2</sup> and A<sup>3</sup> is ethylene and X<sup>2</sup> is oxy, and which ring may bear a methyl or ethyl substituent alpha to X<sup>2</sup>; or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof.
5. A bicyclic heterocyclic derivative of the formula I as claimed in claim 1 wherein Q is 1,3,3-trimethyl-2-oxindolin-5-yl, 1,3-dimethyl-2-oxo-2,3-dihydrobenzimidazol-5-yl, 3-methyl-2-oxo-2,3-dihydrobenzothiazol-6-yl or 3,3-difluoro-1-methyl-2-oxindolin-5-yl; A<sup>1</sup> is a direct link to X<sup>1</sup>; X<sup>1</sup> is thio; Ar is 1,3-phenylene or 5-fluoro-1,3-phenylene; R<sup>1</sup> is methyl; and R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> together form a group of the formula -A<sup>2</sup>-X<sup>2</sup>-A<sup>3</sup>- which, together with the carbon atom to which A<sup>2</sup> and A<sup>3</sup> are attached, defines a ring having 6 ring atoms, wherein each of A<sup>2</sup> and A<sup>3</sup> is ethylene and X<sup>2</sup> is oxy, and which ring may bear a methyl or ethyl substituent alpha to X<sup>2</sup>; or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof.
6. A bicyclic heterocyclic derivative of the formula I, or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof as defined in claim 1, selected from the group consisting of:-  
4-methoxy-4-[3-(1,3,3-trimethyl-2-oxindolin-5-ylthio)phenyl]tetrahydropyran,  
4-[1,3-dimethyl-2-oxo-2,3-dihydrobenzimidazol-5-ylthio]-phenyl]-4-methoxytetrahydropyran and 4-methoxy-4-[3-(3-methyl-2-oxo-2,3-dihydrobenzothiazol-6-ylthio)phenyl]tetrahydropyran.
7. A bicyclic heterocyclic derivative of the formula I, or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof as defined in claim 1, selected from the group consisting of:-  
4-[5-fluoro-3-(3-methyl-2-oxo-2,3-dihydrobenzothiazol-6-ylmethoxy)-phenyl]-4-methoxytetrahydropyran,  
4-[5-fluoro-3-(1,3-dimethyl-2-oxo-2,3-dihydrobenzimidazol-5-ylmethoxy)phenyl]-4-methoxytetrahydropyran and  
4-[5-fluoro-3-(3,3-difluoro-1-methyl-2-oxindolin-5-ylmethoxy)phenyl]-4-methoxytetrahydropyran.
8. A process for the preparation of a bicyclic heterocyclic derivative of the formula I, or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof, as claimed in claim 1 which comprises:-  
(a) the coupling of a compound of the formula Q-A<sup>1</sup>-X<sup>1</sup>-H with a compound of the formula II



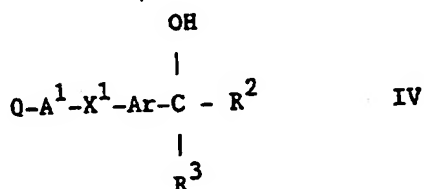
wherein Z is a displaceable group; provided that, when there is an amino, alkylamino or hydroxy group in Q, Ar, R<sup>2</sup> or R<sup>3</sup>, any amino, alkylamino or hydroxy group may be protected by a conventional protecting group or alternatively any such group need not be protected; whereafter any undesired protecting group in Q, Ar, R<sup>2</sup> or R<sup>3</sup> is removed by conventional means;

(b) the coupling of a compound of the formula III



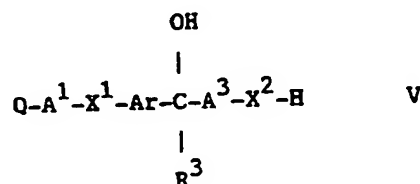
with a compound of the formula Q-A<sup>1</sup>-Z wherein Z is a displaceable group; provided that, when there is an amino, alkylamino or hydroxy group in Q, Ar, R<sup>2</sup> or R<sup>3</sup>, any amino, alkylamino or hydroxy group may be protected by a conventional protecting group or alternatively any such group need not be protected, whereafter any undesired protecting group in Q, Ar, R<sup>2</sup> or R<sup>3</sup> is removed by conventional means;

(c) the alkylation of a compound of the formula IV



with a compound of the formula R<sup>1</sup>-Z, wherein R<sup>1</sup> and Z have the meanings defined hereinbefore; provided that, when there is an amino, imino, alkylamino or hydroxy group in Q, X<sup>1</sup>, Ar, R<sup>2</sup> or R<sup>3</sup> any amino; imino, alkylamino or hydroxy group may be protected by a conventional protecting group or alternatively any such group need not be protected, whereafter any undesired protecting group in Q, X<sup>1</sup>, Ar, R<sup>2</sup> or R<sup>3</sup> is removed by conventional means;

(d) for the production of those compounds of the formula I wherein R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>2</sup> together form a group of the formula -A<sup>2</sup>-X<sup>2</sup>-A<sup>3</sup> which, together with the oxygen atom to which A<sup>2</sup> is attached, defines a ring having 5 to 7 ring atoms and wherein A<sup>2</sup>, X<sup>2</sup> and A<sup>3</sup> have the meanings defined hereinbefore, and wherein R<sup>3</sup> has the meaning defined hereinbefore; the cyclisation of a compound of the formula V



upon reaction with an appropriate aldehyde or ketone, or with a hemiacetal or acetal thereof, or with a compound of the formula Z-A<sup>2</sup>-Z, wherein Z has the meaning defined hereinbefore; provided that, when there is an amino, imino, alkylamino or hydroxy group in Q, X<sup>1</sup> or Ar, any amino, imino, alkylamino or hydroxy group is protected by a conventional protecting group, whereafter any undesired protecting group in Q, X<sup>1</sup> or Ar is removed by conventional means;

(e) for the production of those compounds of the formula I wherein X<sup>1</sup> is a sulphinyl or sulphonyl group, wherein R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> together form a group of the formula -A<sup>2</sup>-X<sup>2</sup>-A<sup>3</sup> and X<sup>2</sup> is a sulphinyl or sulphonyl group or wherein R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>2</sup> together form a group of the formula -A<sup>2</sup>-X<sup>2</sup>-A<sup>3</sup> and X<sup>2</sup> is a sulphinyl or sulphonyl group, the oxidation of a compound of the formula I wherein X<sup>1</sup> is a thio group, wherein R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> together form a group of the formula -A<sup>2</sup>-X<sup>2</sup>-A<sup>3</sup> and X<sup>2</sup> is a thio group or wherein R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>2</sup> together form a group of the formula -A<sup>2</sup>-X<sup>2</sup>-A<sup>3</sup> and X<sup>2</sup> is a thio group;

(f) for the production of those compounds of the formula I wherein Ar bears an alkanoylamino substituent, the acylation of a compound of the formula I wherein Ar bears an amino substituent; or

(g) for the production of those compounds of the formula I wherein Q bears an alkyl or substituted alkyl substituent on an available nitrogen atom, or wherein Ar bears an alkoxy substituent, the alkylation of a compound of the formula I wherein Q bears a hydrogen atom on said available nitrogen atom, or wherein Ar bears a hydroxy substituent; and

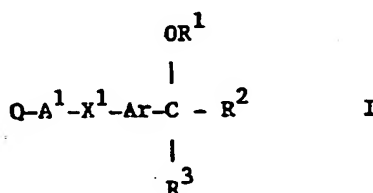
when a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt of a novel compound of the formula I is required, it may be obtained by reaction of said compound with a suitable acid or base using a conventional procedure.

9. A pharmaceutical composition which comprises a bicyclic heterocyclic derivative of the formula I, or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof, as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 7 in association with a pharmaceutically-acceptable diluent or carrier.

10. The use of a bicyclic heterocyclic derivative of the formula I, or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof, as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 7 in the production of a new medicament for use in a leukotriene mediated disease or medical condition.

#### Claims for the following Contracting States: GR and ES

1. A process for the preparation of a bicyclic heterocyclic derivative of the formula I



wherein Q is a 9-membered bicyclic heterocyclic moiety containing one or two nitrogen heteroatoms and optionally containing a further heteroatom selected from nitrogen, oxygen and sulphur, which heterocyclic moiety may optionally bear one or two oxo or thioxo substituents and up to four further substituents selected from halogeno, hydroxy, cyano, amino, (1-4C)alkyl, (1-4C)alkoxy, fluoro-(1-4C)alkyl, (1-4C)alkylamino, di-[(1-4C)alkyl]amino, amino-(1-4C)alkyl, (1-4C)alkylamino-(1-4C)alkyl, di-[(1-4C)alkyl]amino-(1-4C)alkyl, phenyl and phenyl-(1-4C)alkyl, and wherein said phenyl or phenyl-(1-4C)alkyl substituent may optionally bear a substituent selected from halogeno, (1-4C)alkyl and (1-4C)alkoxy;

wherein A<sup>1</sup> is a direct link to X<sup>1</sup> or is (1-3C)alkylene;

wherein X<sup>1</sup> is oxy, thio, sulphinyl, sulphonyl or imino;

wherein Ar is phenylene which may optionally bear one or two substituents selected from halogeno, hydroxy, amino, nitro, cyano, carbamoyl, ureldo, (1-4C)alkyl, (1-4C)alkoxy, (1-4C)alkylamino, di-[(1-4C)alkyl]amino, fluoro-(1-4C)alkyl and (2-4C)alkanoylamino; or

Ar is pyridylene;

wherein R<sup>1</sup> is (1-4C)alkyl, (3-4C)alkenyl or (3-4C)alkynyl; and

wherein R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> together form a group of the formula -A<sup>2</sup>-X<sup>2</sup>-A<sup>3</sup>- which, together with the carbon atom to which A<sup>2</sup> and A<sup>3</sup> are attached, defines a ring having 5 to 7 ring atoms, wherein A<sup>2</sup> and A<sup>3</sup>, which may be the same or different, each is (1-3C)alkylene and X<sup>2</sup> is oxy, thio, sulphinyl or sulphonyl, and which ring

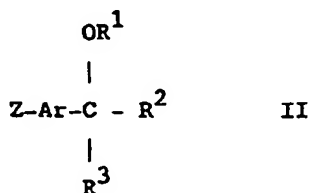


may bear one, two or three substituents, which may be the same or different, selected from hydroxy, (1-4C)alkyl and (1-4C)alkoxy;

or wherein R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>2</sup> together form a group of the formula -A<sup>2</sup>-X<sup>2</sup>-A<sup>3</sup> which, together with the oxygen atom to which A<sup>2</sup> is attached and with the carbon atom to which A<sup>3</sup> is attached, defines a ring having 5 to 7 ring atoms, wherein A<sup>2</sup> and A<sup>3</sup>, which may be the same or different, each is (1-3C)alkylene and X<sup>2</sup> is oxy, thio, sulphinyl or sulphonyl, and which ring may bear one, two or three (1-4C)alkyl substituents, and wherein R<sup>3</sup> is (1-4C)alkyl, (2-4C)alkenyl or (2-4C)alkynyl; or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof;

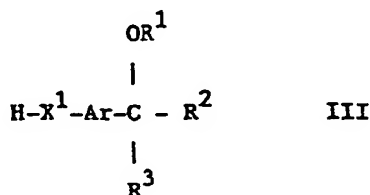
characterised by

(a) the coupling of a compound of the formula Q-A<sup>1</sup>-X<sup>1</sup>-H with a compound of the formula II



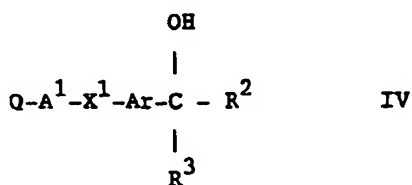
wherein Z is a displaceable group; provided that, when there is an amino, alkylamino or hydroxy group in Q, Ar, R<sup>2</sup> or R<sup>3</sup>, any amino, alkylamino or hydroxy group may be protected by a conventional protecting group or alternatively any such group need not be protected; whereafter any undesired protecting group in Q, Ar, R<sup>2</sup> or R<sup>3</sup> is removed by conventional means;

(b) the coupling of a compound of the formula III



with a compound of the formula Q-A<sup>1</sup>-Z wherein Z is a displaceable group; provided that, when there is an amino, alkylamino or hydroxy group in Q, Ar, R<sup>2</sup> or R<sup>3</sup>, any amino, alkylamino or hydroxy group may be protected by a conventional protecting group or alternatively any such group need not be protected, whereafter any undesired protecting group in Q, Ar, R<sup>2</sup> or R<sup>3</sup> is removed by conventional means;

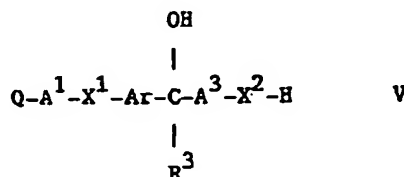
(c) the alkylation of a compound of the formula IV



with a compound of the formula R<sup>1</sup>-Z, wherein R<sup>1</sup> and Z have the meanings defined hereinbefore; provided that, when there is an amino, imino, alkylamino or hydroxy group in Q, X<sup>1</sup>, Ar, R<sup>2</sup> or R<sup>3</sup> any amino, imino, alkylamino or hydroxy group may be protected by a conventional protecting group or alternatively any such group need not be protected, whereafter any undesired protecting group in Q, X<sup>1</sup>, Ar, R<sup>2</sup> or R<sup>3</sup> is removed by conventional means;

(d) for the production of those compounds of the formula I wherein R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>2</sup> together form a group of the formula -A<sup>2</sup>-X<sup>2</sup>-A<sup>3</sup> which, together with the oxygen atom to which A<sup>2</sup> is attached, defines a ring

having 5 to 7 ring atoms and wherein A<sup>2</sup>, X<sup>2</sup> and A<sup>3</sup> have the meanings defined hereinbefore, and wherein R<sup>3</sup> has the meaning defined hereinbefore; the cyclisation of a compound of the formula V



upon reaction with an appropriate aldehyde or ketone, or with a hemiacetal or acetal thereof, or with a compound of the formula Z-A<sup>2</sup>-Z, wherein Z has the meaning defined hereinbefore; provided that, when there is an amino, imino, alkylamino or hydroxy group in Q, X<sup>1</sup> or Ar, any amino, imino, alkylamino or hydroxy group is protected by a conventional protecting group, whereafter any undesired protecting group in Q, X<sup>1</sup> or Ar is removed by conventional means;

(e) for the production of those compounds of the formula I wherein X<sup>1</sup> is a sulphinyl or sulphonyl group, wherein R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> together form a group of the formula -A<sup>2</sup>-X<sup>2</sup>-A<sup>3</sup>- and X<sup>2</sup> is a sulphinyl or sulphonyl group or wherein R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>2</sup> together form a group of the formula -A<sup>2</sup>-X<sup>2</sup>-A<sup>3</sup>- and X<sup>2</sup> is a sulphinyl or sulphonyl group, the oxidation of a compound of the formula I wherein X<sup>1</sup> is a thio group, wherein R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> together form a group of the formula -A<sup>2</sup>-X<sup>2</sup>-A<sup>3</sup>- and X<sup>2</sup> is a thio group or wherein R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>2</sup> together form a group of the formula -A<sup>2</sup>-X<sup>2</sup>-A<sup>3</sup>- and X<sup>2</sup> is a thio group;

(f) for the production of those compounds of the formula I wherein Ar bears an alkanoylamino substituent, the acylation of a compound of the formula I wherein Ar bears an amino substituent; or (g) for the production of those compounds of the formula I wherein Q bears an alkyl or substituted alkyl substituent on an available nitrogen atom, or wherein Ar bears an alkoxy substituent, the alkylation of a compound of the formula I wherein Q bears a hydrogen atom on said available nitrogen atom, or wherein Ar bears a hydroxy substituent; and

when a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt of a novel compound of the formula I is required, it may be obtained by reaction of said compound with a suitable acid or base using a conventional procedure.

2. A process as claimed in claim 1 for the preparation of a bicyclic heterocyclic derivative of the formula I wherein Q is indolyl, indolyl, benzimidazolyl, 2,3-dihydrobenzimidazolyl, 1H-indazolyl, 2,3-dihydro-1H-indazolyl, benzoxazolyl, 2,3-dihydrobenzoxazolyl, benzothiazolyl or 2,3-dihydrobenzothiazolyl, which may optionally bear one or two oxo or thioxo substituents and up to four substituents selected from fluoro, chloro, bromo, hydroxy, cyano, amino, methyl, ethyl, propyl, methoxy, trifluoromethyl, 2-fluoroethyl, 2,2,2-trifluoroethyl, 2-methylaminoethyl, 2-dimethylaminoethyl, phenyl and benzyl, and wherein said phenyl or benzyl substituent may optionally bear a substituent selected from chloro, methyl and methoxy;
 

A<sup>1</sup> is a direct link to X<sup>1</sup> or is methylene;  
 X<sup>1</sup> is oxy, thio, sulphinyl or sulphonyl;  
 Ar is 1,3-phenylene or 1,4-phenylene which may optionally bear one or two substituents selected from fluoro, chloro, hydroxy, amino, nitro, ureido, methoxy, dimethylamino, trifluoromethyl and acetamido; or Ar is 3,5-pyridylene;  
 R<sup>1</sup> is methyl, ethyl, allyl or 2-propynyl; and  
 R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> together form a group of the formula -A<sup>2</sup>-X<sup>2</sup>-A<sup>3</sup>- which, together with the carbon atom to which A<sup>2</sup> and A<sup>3</sup> are attached, defines a ring having 5 or 6 ring atoms, wherein A<sup>2</sup> is ethylene, A<sup>3</sup> is methylene or ethylene, and X<sup>2</sup> is oxy, and which ring may bear one or two substituents selected from methyl, ethyl, propyl, methoxy and ethoxy;  
 or R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>2</sup> together form a group of the formula -A<sup>2</sup>-X<sup>2</sup>-A<sup>3</sup>- which, together with the oxygen atom to which A<sup>2</sup> is attached and with the carbon atom to which A<sup>3</sup> is attached, defines a ring having 5 or 6 ring atoms, wherein A<sup>2</sup> is methylene, A<sup>3</sup> is methylene or ethylene, and X<sup>2</sup> is oxy, and which ring may bear one, two or three substituents selected from methyl, ethyl and propyl, and R<sup>3</sup> is methyl or ethyl;  
 or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof.
3. A process as claimed in claim 1 for the preparation of a bicyclic heterocyclic derivative of the formula I wherein Q is 2-oxoindolin-5-yl, 2,3-dioxoindolin-5-yl, 2-oxo-2,3-dihydrobenzimidazol-5-yl, 2-oxo-2,3-dihydrobenzoxazol-6-yl or 2-oxo-2,3-dihydrobenzothiazol-6-yl which may optionally bear one, two or three

substituents selected from fluoro, chloro, hydroxy, methyl, ethyl, propyl, 2-fluoroethyl, 2-dimethylaminoethyl, phenyl and benzyl;

A<sup>1</sup> is a direct link to X<sup>1</sup>, or is methylene;

X<sup>1</sup> is oxy, thio, sulphinyl or sulphonyl;

6 Ar is 1,3-phenylene or 1,4-phenylene which may optionally bear one or two substituents selected from fluoro, hydroxy, amino, nitro, ureido, methoxy, dimethylamino, trifluoromethyl and acetamido; or

Ar is 3,5-pyridylene;

R<sup>1</sup> is methyl, ethyl, allyl or 2-propynyl; and

10 R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> together form a group of the formula -A<sup>2</sup>-X<sup>2</sup>-A<sup>3</sup>- which, together with the carbon atom to which A<sup>2</sup> and A<sup>3</sup> are attached, defines a ring having 5 or 6 ring atoms, wherein A<sup>2</sup> is ethylene, A<sup>3</sup> is methylene or ethylene, and X<sup>2</sup> is oxy, and which ring may bear one or two substituents selected from methyl and ethyl; or R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>2</sup> together form a group of the formula -A<sup>2</sup>-X<sup>2</sup>-A<sup>3</sup>- which, together with the oxygen atom to which A<sup>2</sup> is attached and with the carbon atom to which A<sup>3</sup> is attached, defines a ring having 5 ring atoms, wherein A<sup>2</sup> is methylene, A<sup>3</sup> is methylene, and X<sup>2</sup> is oxy, and which ring may bear one, two or three substituents  
15 selected from methyl and ethyl, and R<sup>3</sup> is methyl or ethyl;  
or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof.

4. A process as claimed in claim 1 for the preparation of a bicyclic heterocyclic derivative of the formula I wherein Q is 1,3,3-trimethyl-2-oxoindolin-5-yl, 1,3-dimethyl-2-oxo-2,3-dihydrobenzimidazol-5-yl or 3-methyl-2-oxo-2,3-dihydrobenzothiazol-6-yl;

20 A<sup>1</sup> is a direct link to X<sup>1</sup>;

X<sup>1</sup> is thio;

Ar is 1,3-phenylene or 5-fluoro-1,3-phenylene;

25 R<sup>1</sup> is methyl; and

R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> together form a group of the formula -A<sup>2</sup>-X<sup>2</sup>-A<sup>3</sup>- which, together with the carbon atom to which A<sup>2</sup> and A<sup>3</sup> are attached, defines a ring having 6 ring atoms, wherein each of A<sup>2</sup> and A<sup>3</sup> is ethylene and X<sup>2</sup> is oxy, and which ring may bear a methyl or ethyl substituent alpha to X<sup>2</sup>;  
or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof.

30 5. A process as claimed in claim 1 for the preparation of a bicyclic heterocyclic derivative of the formula I wherein Q is 1,3,3-trimethyl-2-oxoindolin-5-yl, 1,3-dimethyl-2-oxo-2,3-dihydrobenzimidazol-5-yl, 3-methyl-2-oxo-2,3-dihydrobenzothiazol-6-yl or 3,3-difluoro-1-methyl-2-oxoindolin-5-yl;

A<sup>1</sup> is a direct link to X<sup>1</sup>;

X<sup>1</sup> is thio;

35 Ar is 1,3-phenylene or 5-fluoro-1,3-phenylene;

R<sup>1</sup> is methyl; and

R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> together form a group of the formula -A<sup>2</sup>-X<sup>2</sup>-A<sup>3</sup>- which, together with the carbon atom to which A<sup>2</sup> and A<sup>3</sup> are attached, defines a ring having 6 ring atoms, wherein each of A<sup>2</sup> and A<sup>3</sup> is ethylene and X<sup>2</sup> is oxy, and which ring may bear a methyl or ethyl substituent alpha to X<sup>2</sup>;  
40 or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof.

6. A process for the preparation of a pharmaceutical composition characterised by bringing into association a bicyclic heterocyclic derivative of the formula I, or a  
45 pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof, as defined in any one of claims 1 to 5 and a pharmaceutically-acceptable diluent or carrier.

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